



Jordan Times

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Elizabeth urges Canadian unity

OTTAWA (R) — Queen Elizabeth II of Britain urged Canadians to remain united, having just celebrated the centenary of the Dominion of Canada. She said a constitutional crisis, although some Quebecers urged her not to come, the queen travelled around a park in Hull, Quebec, for half an hour accompanied by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his wife. The queen said she was pleased to see the people of Quebec and the rest of Canada. "I am glad to be here at this sensitive time," she said. The so-called Meech Lake Accord failed on June 23 after two provinces failed to ratify the pact that was designed to make Quebec part of the constitution, which the province refused to sign in 1982. In his message marking Canadian confederation under British rule in 1867, Mulroney acknowledged there was a crisis but said the country had survived great challenges before.

Serbia holds referendum

BELGRADE (AP) — Serbs voted Sunday in a referendum on whether to hold free elections before the adoption of a new constitution that would end the autonomy of the ethnic Albanian minority in Kosovo province. Turnout was high on a hot Sunday in Belgrade, which serves as both of the federal government and the capital of Serbia. Voting will continue Monday, and results are to be released Tuesday. Serbian Communist President Slobodan Milosevic announced the referendum last Monday for Serbia, the largest of Yugoslavia's six republics. It was preceded by a barrage of propaganda in the state-run media calling on voters to support a delay in free elections until after enactment of a new constitution, for which no date has been set. Serbia's Communist authorities in the past have rejected Western-style pluralism. But opposition parties, although still illegal, are tolerated. By contrast, the northern republics of Slovenia and Croatia this spring held the first free elections in 45 years for local legislatures. Both elections were won by centre-right parties which trounced the reformed Communist parties that called the elections.

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HAPPY EID

The Jordan Times will not be published on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday on account of the Eid holiday. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Saturday, July 7. The Jordan Times wishes its readers and advertisers a very happy Eid Al Adha.

Arab ministers to meet July 16

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League has proposed July 16 as the date for an emergency meeting of foreign ministers on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the U.S. decision to suspend talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The meeting was originally set for last Wednesday but was postponed after not enough ministers were able to attend. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told reporters Saturday night they would now meet on July 16. Arab diplomatic sources said they doubted that any of the 21 members would object to the new date.

Levy leaves hospital

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister David Levy was released Sunday from Hadassah hospital where he underwent treatment of a heart condition, hospital officials said. Last month, Levy spent 11 days at Hadassah hospital in Afula following a minor heart attack. Levy was hospitalised again last Thursday and received treatment to expand heart arteries. Hadassah hospital officials described the treatment as "successful."

Cat Stevens refused entry to Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Former pop star Cat Stevens, who took the name Yusuf Islam when he converted to Islam, was refused entry by Israeli authorities Sunday. Airport officials said they turned away Islam, 41, who was accompanied by his eight-year-old son, for his alleged preachings against Israel. Stevens had dozens of hit records in the 1970s.

Gorbachev restores citizenship to 3 emigre writers

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has restored Soviet citizenship to three leading writers expelled in the 1970s for works which criticised the country and its policies. TASS news agency said Gorbachev issued a presidential decree restoring citizenship to Alexander Zinoviev, Zhores Medvedev, and Vladimir Maximov — all expelled during the rule of former leader Leonid Brezhnev. "The decree issued here today says this has been done to eliminate the injustice done to them and has been prompted by humane considerations and goodwill," the agency said.

Israel releases Arab poet

HAIFA (AP) — An Israeli Arab poet charged with identifying with a "terrorist" organisation was released from house arrest Sunday by district court judge here. Shafik Habib, a 49-year-old accountant known for his "political poetry," was placed under house arrest in mid-June after police said his poems could incite violence. Publication of Habib's poems was also banned. The move sparked protests by Arab legislators and the Palestinian Israeli Writers' Union.

Algeria helps independent press

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian government has set aside premises in central Algiers to help journalists launch independent publications, the official news agency APS said Sunday. The former headquarters of the Ministry of Higher Education will become a "press house" where the new publications can set up offices, it said, quoting government sources.

Israeli exploitation of Arab water blocks peace — Badran

Prime minister defends economic policy against criticism, denies 'deal' with Islamic Bloc

By Salamah Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan warned Sunday that Israel's illegal use of water from the occupied territories, the Jordan and Litani rivers and its obstruction of Jordanian attempts to get financing for Al Wihda Dam could destroy all chances for peace in the region. Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Israel had interfered with the World Bank to block the financing of the Al Wihda Dam project by asserting that it had rights over the Yarmouk River waters.

"Israel has been able to interfere with the World Bank and stop the extension of loans for the project," Badran said in an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Hayat newspapers. "Israel is claiming that it has rights in the (Yarmouk) River waters and it insists on having a share," the prime minister added. He said Jordan would seek financing from other sources to go ahead with the project which it had already launched in cooperation with Syria. The project, which was expected to cost \$450 million, was designed to provide a reserve of 120 million cubic metres of water.

"Jordan is suffering severe water shortages," Badran said. "Israel is obstructing the project — using unrealistic and illogical excuses... now we have a financing problem because Israel is saying it wants shares in the waters, which made the World Bank stop its financing." He pointed out that Israel has also started pumping Litani River waters "in addition to fully exploiting River Jordan waters and pumping it to its strategic reservoir in the Tiberias Lake."

"Israel is taking the waters to supply new settlements," Badran said. "If these settlements go ahead, then it is the end of all chances for peace in the region. The use of these waters for settlements means turning the page on peace forever and ever."

He said Jordan's position on Israel's water claims was unchanged: "We will not give up any part no matter how small of our water rights because we, more than any other country in the Middle East, are badly in need of water. There is no going back on this position."

"We are suffering from water shortages, including drinking water," Badran said. "It is no secret that some areas in Jordan do not receive water except once every two weeks and some villages have no water except once every 18 days."

He said that despite the fact that

most of Israel's population density is on the Mediterranean coast, and the opportunities available to it for water desalination, Israel "continues to take our waters... we have confirmed information about the size of the damage done to ground water resources in the West Bank and the size of Israeli exploitation of these waters."

On statements by His Majesty King Hussein, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak about the mounting threat of war in the region, Badran said that such statements "are aimed at exposing Israeli aggressive intentions and serve as a deterrent that could help us avoid a certain disaster."

He said Jordan has successfully brought world attention to the threats inherent in Israeli extremism.

Domestic policy

Dismissing criticism of his government's handling of the economy, Badran said his government had adopted a national economic plan which has already paid off in narrowing the budget deficit, increasing exports and establishing stability that is conducive to new investments.

He said this economic plan "may have some negative aspects in terms of squeezing expenditure and increasing the tax burden, but these are

sacrifices that every society must bear if it wants to reform its economy."

Responding to claims by parliamentarians that his economic policies did not go beyond the structural adjustment programme adopted in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, without a solution to unemployment and inflation, Badran said: "Those who say that we have no economic policies know very little about economic and social matters or have a shallow knowledge of the subject. Jordan is going through a clear economic plan. The exchange rate has been stabilised and there are no more price fluctuations the way they were before. Exports have made great leaps and investments have started coming back. All this is an integral part of the economic policy and not a superficial action or a reaction to a specific situation. But the economy needs a long time before it can recover fully. There are social problems such as unemployment, and some say the government had not solved the problem after four or five months... if the unemployment crisis could be solved in four months, then this is not a crisis. There are super powers that fail to handle unemployment for years. These are not problems that can be solved in months. We need economic stability and investments... and this is what we are

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11,000 Soviets arrived in Israel in June; Sharon gets new power

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — More than 11,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants arrived in Israel in June, bringing the number of Soviet arrivals in the first half of 1990 to over 50,000, an immigration official said Sunday.

Gad Ben Ari, of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency, told Reuters some 12,000 immigrants — 11,015 of them from the Soviet Union — arrived last month.

He said a figure of 9,032 reported earlier was based on arrivals until June 27 but had now been updated.

Jewish Agency officials told a news conference broadcast Saturday that 165,000 Soviet Jews were expected by the end of the year.

The cabinet Sunday granted emergency powers to Housing Minister Ariel Sharon to speed up construction of homes and avert a major shortage. Israelis have staged street protests to

protest at the lack of affordable apartments.

Sharon, a leading advocate of Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, said last week that new immigrants would not be settled there, in an apparent concession to U.S. and Soviet pressure. But he was contradicted by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Sharon, who also serves as coordinator of immigration, had requested the measure adopted Sunday to allow the purchase of 3,000 prefabricated houses, either locally or abroad.

The measure, which is to last for three months, is to be debated Monday by the parliament. The Likud bloc of Shamir, to which Sharon belongs, commands a majority in the parliament.

The prefabricated units are to be set up near nine towns, most in the Galilee in the north and in the

southern Negev desert.

Israeli contractors have opposed the move, arguing that it will hurt the local construction industry.

Sharon has said Israel will need to build 7,000 new housing units a month to accommodate the flood of Soviet immigrants that began in the spring of 1989 after the Soviet Union eased exit permits. Israel's current rate of construction is about 1,600 units a month.

A shortage of housing has sent rents skyrocketing and sparked protests by young Israelis who say they are being priced out of the market.

Sharon's request for emergency regulations has stirred fear among some politicians that he may try to assume powers currently delegated to municipal planning councils and Zionist bodies.

Parliament member Yossi

Sarid of the left-wing Citizens Rights Movement said that one-tenth of government-funded construction was going to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He excluded funding for Arab Jerusalem.

Sarid noted that there has been widespread criticism in the United States and Europe to Israel's continued settlement of Jews in the occupied territories.

Israeli officials, in response to the criticism, have pledged that Soviet immigrants will not be directed to the occupied territories.

"This is another attempt to lie to the world," said Moshe Horowitz, a spokesman for Sarid's party.

"The policy doesn't direct immigrants to the territories, but people are thrown there without choice because they have nowhere else to live," he added.

King receives greetings

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received telephone calls from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. King Hussein and the two Arab leaders exchanged congratulations on the occasion of the 'Eid Al Adha' feast.

3 hurt in Jerusalem bomb blast

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A bomb exploded Sunday near a crowded pedestrian mall in downtown Jerusalem, slightly injuring at least three people, police said.

Police said the device was apparently a letter bomb that exploded at about 7:40 p.m. (1630 GMT) inside a staircase mail box just off Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda shopping mall.

"There was an explosion inside a staircase... a number of people were injured by the force of the blast. They are being treated. At the moment we are completing our sweep of the area," police deputy superintendent Zeev Valdiger said.

Police officials announced a search for two Palestinians seen fleeing the area just after the blast.

At least 11 others were rounded up and taken away in a police van, witnesses said. Israeli army radio said police prevented angry Israelis from attacking the detainees.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

A series of homemade pipe bombs have been discovered in Jerusalem in recent days. The last bomb attack in the city was on June 26 when a bomb that went off at a bus stop lightly injured two Israeli women.

In the most serious of recent attacks, an Israeli man was killed and nine others were injured in an explosion at the Ben-Yehuda market in Jerusalem May 28.

That attack was claimed by two Palestinian groups, the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad and the dissident Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction headed by Sa'id Mousa.

Pilgrimage rituals proceed smoothly

MECCA (Agencies) — Some two million Muslims stood in prayer Sunday on Arafat, the mountain overlooking Mecca where the Prophet Mohammad delivered his last sermon 14 centuries ago, as the annual Haj reached one of its high points.

For the first time since 1986, the pilgrimage season has been terror-free.

Only a limited fire at Mina, the tent-city nine kilometres away from Arafat, marred an otherwise calm pilgrimage season whose success in terms of security and services was underscored by the Saudi hosts.

Witnesses said that on their descent from Arafat, they spotted the smoke from a distance, with a helicopter flying over the site. "We were told it was at Mina. It did not look like a big fire," said one of the witnesses quoted by the AP.

The pilgrims, especially from Third World nations, sometimes bring kerosene stoves along to cook in the tents, which can touch off fires.

Saudi Arabian television, broadcasting the Haj ritual live, showed masses of white-robed pilgrims marching bareheaded under a burning sun towards the mountain outside the holy city.

"With cries of 'Allah Akbar' the sea of people started ascending Mount Arafat... in a solemn display of Muslim humility before the Almighty," the television said.

The temperature was about 45 degrees Centigrade (nearly 115 Fahrenheit).

Some pilgrims carried old-fashioned white parasols but many will inevitably suffer sunstroke during the 11-kilometre trek. Health Minister Faisal Ben Abdul Aziz Al Hejailan told the television that good medical care is ready for them.

The Saudi authorities have spent \$6.4 billion on pilgrim hotels and other facilities in the past few years. The Mecca region now has seven fully-equipped hospitals and 73 clinics.

The Saudi authorities reported growing number of pilgrims with an arrival of 827,236 pilgrims from around the world by air, land and sea to Saudi Arabia for this Haj.

That was some 52,000 more than last year, and some 30,000 more than 1988.

These are joined by at about half a million pilgrims from inside the kingdom and its large expatriate community, with another half million for the servicing tasks required by the world's largest religious congregation.

Accenting the progress, the deputy-governor of Mecca region, Prince Saud Ben Abdul Mohsen, who is also deputy chairman of the central Haj Committee, said: "The ascent of pilgrims by car and foot over the nine kilometres from Mina to Arafat which had started at dawn went perfectly."

"The ascent was perfectly organised and the flow of traffic was very smooth," he said.

He said that not a single case of sunstroke or death was reported among the pilgrims at Arafat.

Uprising leaders urge boycott of U.S. products

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A new leaflet by leaders of the Palestinian uprising called Sunday for Arab countries to boycott U.S.-made goods to protest American policies in the Middle East.

The uprising leaders also repeated their earlier call on Palestinian merchants to avoid dealing in U.S. products.

It added: "We call upon the Arab World... to act in turn to boycott all American products and not to allow their entrance into Arab markets."

The underground leadership has tried to enforce a ban on the sale of Israeli-made goods for much of the 30-month rebellion.

As the leaflet was being distributed, masked Palestinians raided the market in the West Bank town of Qalqilya and destroyed fruit and vegetables suspected of coming from Israel, Arab reports said.

In the Gaza Strip town of Rafah, masked Palestinians fatally stabbed an Arab who was suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities.

Arab shops were open all day Sunday as Muslims prepared for the three-day Eid Al Adha, which begins Monday. Shops normally are open only three hours a day in solidarity with the uprising.

The leaflet called for prayers and processions Monday to com-

memorate Palestinians killed in the uprising. The leaflet was the latest of several statements by Palestinians expressing anger over U.S. policy in the Middle East.

It accused the United States of consistently backing Israel, which it accused of "practicing the highest kinds of terrorism against our children and old people in our villages, camps and in the Nazi-like detention centres and holes of interrogation."

The denunciation of the United States followed Washington's cancellation of a dialogue with the PLO and its veto of a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for sending U.N. observer teams to the occupied territories.

After the resolution failed, special U.N. envoy Jean-Claude Aime came to Israel and the occupied territories as part of a Middle East tour. Aime, who held discussions last week with Israeli leaders and Palestinians, met Sunday with a delegation of Jewish settlers.

More than 75,000 Jewish settlers have moved into guarded enclaves amid the 1.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since 1967.

Leaders of the group said after the meeting that they told Aime that too much attention was being paid to the suffering of the Palestinians.

Upon the Occasion of

EID AL-ADHA

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its most cordial wishes and greetings

Rebels advance on Liberian capital

MONROVIA (Agencies) — Rebels advanced within three kilometres of the capital Sunday after residents spent a night of terror while soldiers fired wildly to scare off the insurgents.

A fourth day in the city passed without water and a third day without electricity. Both have been cut off since rebels took the country's main White Plains water treatment plant and Mount Coffe hydroelectric power station within 20 kilometres of Monrovia.

Health officials feared a cholera epidemic as refugees from the fighting continued to enter the overcrowded city, which is suffering serious food shortages.

Western health workers in Monrovia said they had reports from rebel-held Buchanan, Liberia's second port after Monrovia, that young children and old people were beginning to die of starvation.

The rebels, who in six months have advanced from the north-eastern tip of Liberia, this weekend fought troops in at least six locations in an area surrounding the capital, which lies on the Atlantic coast.

Reports from the fighting were sketchy, but no major battles appeared to be under way Sunday.

Fighting occurred less than eight kilometres from the executive mansion of President Samuel Doe Sunday and about 1.5 kilometres from the country's chief port and the main road west to Sierra Leone. The Sierra Leone road is the only one still open out of the city.

Charles Taylor, leader of the rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia, has called on Doe to resign. Doe, who seized power in a 1980 army coup, has refused.

Although Taylor publicly vows to capture Monrovia and kill Doe, rebel commanders say privately they hope to avoid a battle for the city and the fortified coastal mansion where Doe, 40, is surrounded by Israeli-trained bodyguards and his best battalion.

Taylor's strategy appears to be to cut water and power and put pressure on Doe to leave.

Residents stay off the streets from late afternoon for fear of army harassment. The prices of food and petrol have soared and the price of charcoal, the main cooking fuel, doubled to 15 dollars a bag after electricity was cut.

Diplomats say several thousand people have been killed in the six-month-old rebellion, which is not a battle of ideologies but a straightforward struggle for power and money.

Israel frees prisoners on eve of Eid

MEGIDDO (AP) — Israel began releasing dozens of Palestinian prisoners from detention centres Sunday to mark the upcoming Muslim holiday of Eid Al Adha.

At this prison in northern Israel about a dozen youthful Arabs left the prison in the early afternoon. Many of the prisoners flashed "V for victory" signs from the bus windows.

The army would not say how many Palestinians would be freed Sunday, but a Defence Ministry official said earlier that hundreds would be released from facilities in the Gaza Strip, the Ketzioz detention camp and the Megiddo Prison.

Freeing Arab prisoners is traditional on religious holidays. But the timing of the release raised speculation it may be related to a report that a Western hostage may be freed in Lebanon or to Israel's efforts to make peace with Palestinians.

In the report from Tehran, the Sunday correspondent of London quoted Sayed Hossein Mosavian, an Iranian Foreign Ministry official, as saying a Western hostage could be freed soon without any concession expected by the West.

However, Mosavian also told the newspaper that the United

States and other Western nations should exert influence on Israel to free its many Lebanese Shi'ite captives.

It was not clear if Israel's Lebanese Christian militia allies in Lebanon also intended to free prisoners for the Muslim holiday which starts Monday. The Israeli-financed South Lebanon Army militia holds hundreds of Shi'ite prisoners at the Al Khiam detention camp in southern Lebanon.

While Israel also holds Lebanese Shi'ites within its own territory, it appeared most of those being released Sunday were Palestinians arrested in the 30-month uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

By mid-afternoon Sunday, it appeared more than 100 Palestinian inmates had been freed.

Israel Army Radio reported that 60 prisoners were released from prison camps in the occupied Gaza Strip. Television crews said a busload of about 40 inmates also left the Ketzioz Prison in the Negev Desert.

At Megiddo, an army source said 80 Palestinian prisoners would be freed for the three-day holiday.

Dozens of Arab families from the occupied West Bank waited outside Megiddo Prison for husbands, sons and brothers to be released. But many complained those being freed were almost at the end of their sentences.

Subhi Abu Schedem, 18, from Hebron waited outside the prison for his brother Nader, 16.

He said Nader had nine days left of a six-month sentence for protesting and added: "They only release prisoners who have two or three days left and not those that have 10 months or more. This is obvious propaganda."

Adnan Mazan Ata, 15, was among the prisoners who left on the bus and were taken to nearby Jenin. He said he had five days left in an eight-month sentence for protesting against Israeli occupation.

"If the Israelis have good intentions, they should release longer-term prisoners," he said.

Mohammad Fahed, a vegetable seller from Nablus, waited outside Megiddo and said he expected the release of an employee, Hafez Ajuri, 25, whose

six-month sentence had ended Saturday.

"They delayed his release until today to say he was released for the Eid," Fahed said.

Dan Naveh, a chief aide to Defence Minister Moshe Arens, said the release of Arab prisoners is part of Arens' plan to coax Palestinians into peace talks by easing daily hardships.

Naveh said Friday that Israel would release hundreds of prisoners. He added that the prisoners being freed had served the majority of a first sentence for participating in riots and included juveniles under the age of 14.

According to army statistics, Israel held 10,430 Arab security prisoners as of Friday.

Of these, 4,341 have been convicted and 1,038 are being held under emergency regulations allowing suspects to be detained up to a year without charge or trial. The others are awaiting charges or trial.

Meanwhile speculation that a hostage release might be upcoming was heightened by a report in the Israeli weekly "Jerusalem" which said a prisoner exchange was expected between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Israeli MP: New West Bank homes will lure Soviet Jews

TEL AVIV (R) — A leftist Israeli legislator said Sunday the government was building almost 600 new homes in the occupied West Bank which would encourage Soviet Jewish immigrants to settle there.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon said last week the immigrants would not be sent to live in the West Bank or Gaza Strip. The announcement followed threats by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to reconsider his freer emigration policy.

The cabinet Sunday granted Sharon's request for emergency powers to build immigrant housing inside Israel's pre-1967 borders. Outside the meeting, 1,000 builders protested at his plan to import prefabricated homes.

Yossi Sarid, an opposition legislator, told newspapers the Housing Ministry began building 583 homes in the West Bank between January and May this year which would attract immigrants with lower prices and availability.

"Sharon saying we won't send immigrants to the territories is a half truth," said Moshe Horowitz, spokesman for Sarid's party, the Citizen's Rights Movement.

"Inside Israel, there is a large shortage of housing. The immigrants are coming and (the government) is building in the territories. People are pushed there because they have nowhere else to live."

He said the new construction was 10 per cent of government-financed housing for 1990. The programme is certain to be revised to accommodate more immigrants.

The new housing was initiated by former Housing Minister David Levy in the previous government. Officials said it was not meant for immigrants but for other Israelis.

"There are a lot of people who are not immigrants who want to live there," said Avi Pazner, senior adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. "It was never said that all activity was going to stop in these territories."

Arab states pressed Moscow to cut off the flow of Soviet Jewish immigrants for fear Israel would settle them in the occupied territories and displace some of the 1.75 million Palestinians there.

Israeli officials say only a small percentage of the immigrants have actually moved to the territories.

Some 88,000 Jewish settlers already live in the West Bank and Gaza. The United States, Israel's main financial backer with \$3.2 billion in annual aid, says the settlements are an obstacle to peace.

The cabinet approved by a wide margin Sharon's proposal to prepare the infrastructure for 3,000 imported prefabricated homes for the immigrants to ease a housing shortage. The Jewish Agency expects 165,000 Soviet Jews this year.

Supporters stressed it was a short-term solution of limited scope, but opponents said there was no need for emergency steps that allowed Sharon to circumvent laws for acquiring land.

Interior Minister Arye Deri, whose authority is curtailed by the decision, said alternative housing plans existed.

Asked by reporters if he would cooperate with Sharon, Deri said: "There is no need for cooperation because Minister Sharon has received absolute responsibility for the matter. He does not need the cooperation of anyone."

Aid received barely makes a dent, Iranian minister says

TEHRAN (AP) — Interior Minister Abdollah Nouri said Sunday that foreign aid to Iran's earthquake victims was welcome, but was only a small start to the massive work remaining.

Nouri rejected the suggestion that the gestures of goodwill from other nations might improve Iran's relations with the West.

"Bilateral issues between nations and governments, whether general or fundamental, are not settled with such things," he said.

He said any nation seeking political objectives with its donations will be disappointed.

Asked whether Iran wanted better relations with the United States, one of the countries to send help, Nouri said flatly, "no."

He said Iran had two months to build shelter before the rainy season begins in September and that it would welcome donations of prefabricated housing from

other countries.

The houses, he said, would have to be able to stand up to the weather and the high mountain winds that roar through the valleys of the earthquake area, 200 kilometres northwest of Tehran.

"The best form of assistance is cash," Nouri told reporters. He said Iran would not seek international loans for reconstruction.

He said experts were working on the best form of permanent housing and implementing codes that will make the structures earthquake proof.

He said 90,000 residences had been damaged in the quake. Most of them were made of mud brick or kiln-dried brick with little reinforcement in the walls.

Nouri did not have final figures on the death toll. The Iranian Red Crescent Society has put the death toll at 40,000 and the injured at 60,000. Estimates of the homeless range up to 500,000.

He said Iran needed to repair

roads, water systems and electrical service, as well as replace commercial buildings destroyed in the quake.

The total cost just to repair residences and the water and electrical systems will be 900 billion rials (\$1 billion).

Nouri said virtually all of the dead and injured had been recovered from the rubble in the first 72 hours after the earthquake early in the morning June 21, but he said there might still be a few unrecovered bodies in isolated cases. The massive quake measured between 7.3 and 7.7 on the open-ended Richter Scale.

He said there might have been some cases of crime after the earthquake because many of the law-enforcement officers were lost, but he said the national government had sent in Revolutionary Guards and Komeleh, or neighborhood police, and that crime was not a problem.

Ethiopia begins mobilisation

ADIS ABABA (AP) — A recently ordered general mobilisation against northern Ethiopia rebels began with retired soldiers and police re-enlisting, state radio said Sunday.

However, Radio Addis Ababa provided no figures, reporting only "retired men turning out in large numbers in Addis Ababa and its outskirts" beginning Saturday.

"Hundreds of other retired patriotic men have been reporting at registration centres in various provinces," the broadcast said.

The Shengo, or parliament, ordered the mobilisation on June 24 against the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) battling government troops in northern provinces of Tigre and Eritrea.

But the EPRDF denounced the mobilisation Saturday in a clandestine broadcast monitored in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

The broadcast also repeated an earlier rebel ceasefire proposal, saying it could be implemented in a week if President Mengistu Haile Mariam's government were replaced with an interim one.

The rebels blamed the president for hindering the implementation of a ceasefire and instead engaging in "massive preparations" to continue the civil war.

"If the Dergue (government) sticks to its guns of bringing the country and its peoples more bloodshed by rejecting the continuing peace calls, then the EPRDF will have no alternative but to destroy the Dergue," the broadcast said.

The EPRDF is a combined force of the Tigre People's Liberation Front and the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement, a much smaller group.

The Tigreans, fighting a 15-year-old war to oust Mengistu and establish a hardline Marxist government, control their home province of Tigre and recently hit targets 100 kilometres north of Addis Ababa.

On Thursday, the government said it was possible to consider the ceasefire proposal provided the Tigreans stopped supporting the Eritreans in a 29-year-old war for the independence of Eritrea.

But the Tigreans would have none of that.

Algeria denies Palestinian radio broadcast banned

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian government has apologised to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over an alleged attempt by Algerian radio to stop broadcast by the Voice of Palestine.

The pro-government daily Al Mondjahid Sunday reported Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad Ghozali as saying Algeria would not allow anyone to silence the Palestinian radio.

The PLO representative in Algiers complained to the Algerian authorities that the Algerian radio had "taken a unilateral decision to no longer allow broadcasts by the Voice of Palestine from the central studios of

the Algerian Radio," the paper said.

Tahar Ouettar, director-general of Algerian Radio, told Reuters it was a "technical measure nothing to do with politics."

He said that he had ordered the transfer of some broadcasts including the Palestinian one to another studio as part of a technical reorganisation programme. He said this would change nothing regarding Voice of Palestine broadcasts and the latter had misinterpreted the measure as a threat to interrupt the broadcasts, Ouettar said.

The Voice of Palestine broadcasts daily from Radio Algiers between 1700 and 1800 GMT.

Iranian official hints at hostage release — paper

LONDON (AP) — One of the 15 Western hostages held in Lebanon will be freed soon, according to an Iranian official said to be at the centre of hostage negotiations with the West, the Sunday Correspondent reported.

The London Independent weekly said in a Tehran-dated report that Sayed Hossein Mosavian refused in an interview to be more specific or to identify the hostage. But it quoted him as saying, "It is very optimistic news for you."

Mosavian heads the West European bureau of Iran's Foreign Ministry. The hostages — six Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss and one Italian — are believed held by pro-Iranian extremists, and the report said Mosavian did not deny that Iran had influence on them.

The last hostages to be freed were Americans Frank Reed and Robert Polhill at the end of April. President Hashemi Rafsanjani said after their release that Iran had worked hard to convince the militant groups in Lebanon to release their captives. Rafsanjani and other Iranian leaders have stressed that the Americans in return make some gesture toward Iran.

The release of billions of dollars frozen in Iran's U.S. bank accounts since the 1979 seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran is one constant Iranian demand. The other is that four government employees missing in Lebanon since 1982 be traced.

The four are widely believed to have been killed after being stopped at a checkpoint run by the Lebanese Forces militia.

The Bush administration has

said it will make no concessions on demands related to the hostages until all are freed, but would try to locate the missing four.

The Iranian-backed groups holding the hostages in Lebanon have also consistently repeated a number of demands. The two most consistent are the release of Islamic extremists jailed in Kuwait for bombing attacks in the early 1980s, and the release of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners detained in South Lebanon by Israel.

The London newspaper report said Mosavian maintained that the release of another hostage was not contingent upon any concessions by the West.

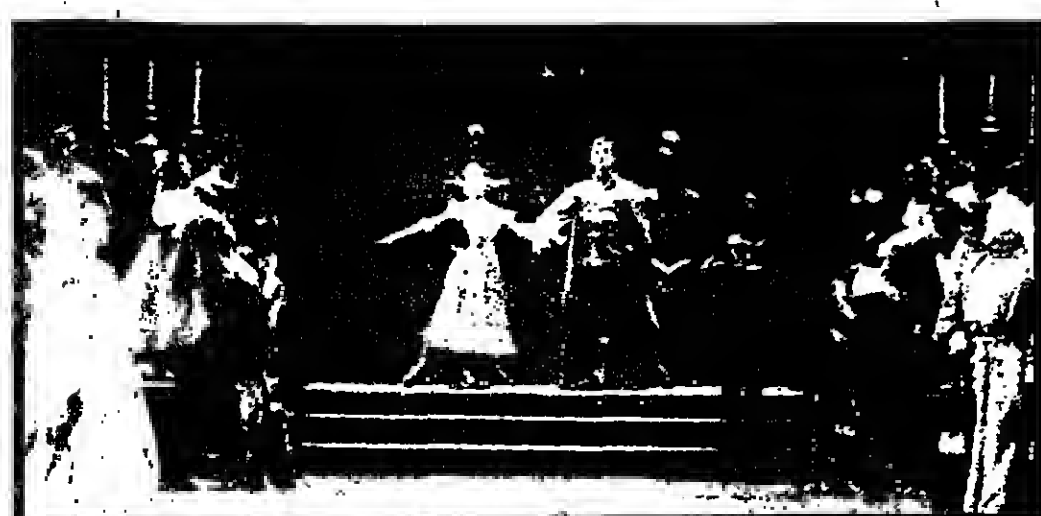
It quoted him as saying: "There is no evidence for us that the hostage-takers have killed Iranian and Western hostages. We know about our own (Iranian) hostages. Our research shows that they are alive. Our information also shows that some of the Western hostages are alive."

"But we have not been able to get complete information about all of them. Because we do not have any documentary evidence that they (the Western hostages) have been killed, there is no reason why they are not alive."

The report said Mosavian stated that the United States and other Western powers should exert influence on Israel to release its many Lebanese Shi'ite captives.

He was quoted as saying that Iran's influence in Lebanon is limited, but Western countries such as the United States and Britain have "unlimited" influence over Israel and its Palestinian allies in Lebanon.

Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor



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AND THE
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Saturday the 7th at 8:00 p.m.
And a special matinee for students on Saturday
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- ☆ The Royal Cultural Centre and the British Council

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Korna

15:40 Programme review

15:45 Children programmes

15:50 News summary

15:55 Local programme

16:00 Programme review

16:10 News in Arabic

16:20 Arabic series

16:30 Perfect Stranger

16:40 Programme review

16:50 Local programmes

17:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:10 Documentary

18:30 News in French

18:35 Weekly Sport magazine

18:40 News in Hebrew

18:45 Varieties

18:50 News in Arabic

19:00 Murder She Wrote

19:10 News in English

19:20 Yales from Hollywood

PRAYER TIMES

03:54 Fajr

05:29 (Sunrise) Dhuha

12:39 Dhuhr

16:28 'Asr

19:29 Maghrib

21:25 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh
Tel. 810740

Assumption of God Church Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440

St. Basil Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541

Anglican Church Tel. 625385

62543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77361

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 60326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 81125

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:

It will be fair and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 17 / 29

Aqaba 23 / 36

Desert 28 / 33

Jordan Valley 22 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Musa Bashir 615467

Dr. Joseph Ismail 770560

Dr. Munir Qasbi 89101

Dr. Sulaiman Al Khayyat 791880

First pharmacy 661912

Al Asma pharmacy 773336

Al Salem pharmacy 637055

Nairoth pharmacy 636762

Jordan Television 77111

Yacoub pharmacy 64945

Shawzi pharmacy 637660

ERBIL:

Dr. Abdul Majid Sabah (—)

Al Shams pharmacy 983238

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad (—)

Khalid pharmacy 98417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 199

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896350

Public Security Department 630321

Police Complaints 603800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 77111

Radio Jordan 77111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815815

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53206

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 64281/6

Abdali Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2

Jarrah Amman Maternity 642362

Melina, J. Amman 636140

Palestine Specialist 641714

Shamoun Hospital 669131

University Hospital 843845

Al-Musharraf Hospital 66727/9

The Islamic, Abdali 66627/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Infant, Al-Masharraf, Cairo (R) 771013

Al-Bashir, J. Amn 77511/26

Army, Marfa 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983233

Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

IBBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275

Al-Narces Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Hayat Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International

Airport Tel. (06)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 Sun'a (RJ)

09:30 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)

10:00 Damascus (RJ)

10:45 Riyadh (RJ)

11:00 Dhahran (RJ)

11:30 Abu Dhabi (add.) (RJ)

12:00 Abu Dhabi (add.) (RJ)

12:30 Kuwait (RJ)

13:30 Larana (RJ)

14:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

14:30 Cairo (RJ)

15:00 Doha (add.) (RJ)

15:30 Abu Dhabi (add.) (RJ)

16:00 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)

16:45 Abu Dhabi (add.) (RJ)

17:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

17:30 Dubai (add.) (RJ)

18:30 London (RJ)

19:30 Ankara, Bagdad (RJ)

20:30 Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:00 Baghdad (LA)

11:00 Sun'a (LA)

12:00 Bucharest (RO)

13:00 Cairo (MS)

13:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

14:30 Kuwait (KU)

15:30 Paris (AF)

16:30 Kuwait (KU)

18:30 Istanbul (TR)

20:30 Beirut (ME)

01:25 Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

11:30 Doha (add.) (RJ)

12:00 Cairo (RJ)

12:30 Abu Dhabi (add.) (RJ)

13:00 Dubai (add.) (RJ)

13:30 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)

14:30 New York, Montreal (RJ)

15:00 Frankfurt (RJ)

15:30 Moscow (RJ)

16:00 Abu Dhabi (add.) (RJ)

16:30 Ankara (RJ)

17:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

17:15 Baghdad (RJ)

17:30 Cairo (RJ)

18:30 Jeddah (RJ)

22:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:00 Al Qasem (SV)

09:15 Beirut (ME)

11:00 Baghdad (LA)

12:00 Frankfurt (LH)

14:00 Cairo (MS)

14:00 Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)

15:30 Kuwait (KU)

16:30 Baghdad (AF)

01:25 Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fill per kg.

Apple 750 / 800

Apricots 350 / 500

Banana 300 / 450

Banana (Mukammal) 450 / 400

Beans 420 / 360

Cabbage 120 / 90

Cauliflower 200 / 150

Carrot 160 / 120

Corn 160 / 100

Cucumber (large) 120 / 80

Cucumber (small) 210 / 180

Dates 400 / 300

Eggplant 220 / 180

Garlic 1000 / 900

Lemon 500 / 400

Green 500 / 400

Mallow 50 / 40

Marrow (large) 80 / 40

Marrow (small) 150 / 100

Onion (dry) 180 / 140

Onion 350 / 300

Peas 600 / 500

Pepper (hot) 220 / 200

Pepper (sweet) 220 / 200

Potato 250 / 200

Sage 550 / 500

Jordan, Egypt to set up joint project

CAIRO (J.T.) — The coming few days will witness the birth of a joint Jordanian-Egyptian company to produce lean meat and fodder with a total capital of 32 million Egyptian pounds, according to an announcement here Sunday.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that final agreement has been reached on setting up the company at Nobarieh in Egypt on a 5,700 feddans (around 24,000 dunams) plot of land to produce lean meat to meet the needs of the two countries; official announcement of the creation of the new company will be made in the coming few days.

The joint firm will be functioning under the umbrella of the Joint Holding Company which has a \$50 million capital and which is responsible for the implementation of other joint economic projects in the two countries.

According to Petra, the two countries have paid equal shares in the company's project which is designed to produce 34,000 tonnes of lamb, 45,000 tonnes of fodder, 22,000 tonnes of green animal feed, 138,000 tonnes of fertilisers and 31 tonnes of raw wool.

The general assembly of the holding company held a meeting in Cairo in May 1990 under the co-chairmanship of the Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Maurice Makramalla and Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz.

The meeting discussed the project and the two ministers inspected the proposed site.

Jordan was estimated earlier to have an annual meat consumption of 41,000 tonnes most of which is imported.

To make up for the shortage in locally produced meat, the Ministry of Supply was Sunday reported to have issued several licences to local merchants to import live sheep for the market, according to report in al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper.

The report also said that the prices of meat declined noticeably, with a kilogramme of lamb selling for JD 2.5 to JD 3, down from JD 3.5 and JD 4.15.

Tourism workshop to tackle services sectors

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day tourism marketing workshop is scheduled to open in Amman on Sunday, 22 July. The workshop will concentrate on strengthening and improving the services sectors in Jordan which support tourism. Participating in the workshop will be representatives from the Kingdom's hotels, travel agents, tour operators, restaurants and transportation services — international and domestic, land and air.

The workshop is being sponsored by the Private Services Development Project (PSDP), and is based on a professional training programme "Marketing & Promotion of Tourism" which is presented twice yearly in New York City by the World Trade Institute (WTI). The workshop will serve as a means to "train trainers" in Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Sharra, Mohammed Assad and Hani Khazn'leh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-printed fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Saints: the French city of art" at the French Cultural Centre.

Women engineers seek equal chances in agriculture

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association (JAEA) is working out plans to train women agricultural engineers in Jordan at the Ministry of Agriculture and other organisations to enable them to gain experience before they can embark on work in Jordan or abroad, according to JAEA Vice-President Mohammad Abu Ayyash.

Abu Ayyash told at a meeting with a group of 70 women agricultural engineers at the Professional Association Complex that the association needs to identify the engineers who seek jobs so that arrangements for their training can be made.

There are 600 women agricultural engineers out of 4,000 members registered with the JAEA, Abu Ayyash said at the meeting. He said that the engineers should review association laws and programmes and JAEA's future activities so as to become involved, service the country and participate in Jordan's efforts to ensure food security.

"Sitting behind office desks can by no means help achieve that goal but work in the field is most desired for both men and women engineers," Abu Ayyash said.

"Those who will help in reviewing association laws will help improve the profession and serve the association's objectives at the same time," Abu Ayyash added.

One of the participants in the meeting, Nidaa Touqan, brought

up the idea of involving women agricultural engineers in productive schemes in cooperation with concerned government departments. She said that the example of several Arab countries should be followed and a group of engineers could be allocated a piece of land, with the income shared equally between the group and the government department.

Abu Ayyash said the association was willing to look into such positive and constructive ideas and convey them to the concerned authorities.

Another participant, Ghada Dabbas, complained about discrimination between men and women agricultural engineers in their field of work, based on her own experience.

But she said that women engineers were determined to fight to ensure equal rights with men.

Another engineer, Saida Arabiyat, said that women agricultural engineers were willing to go out into the field and do actual work. She said this was the best way to prove women's ability in field work for which they had been trained.

Most of the group stressed the need for the association to intensify efforts to find employment for job seekers and said that many agricultural engineers had turned to other professions like teaching, because of unemployment.

All agreed that another meeting should be held in Amman soon to continue discussions.

Health spa to open by end of July

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Salt Land Village, a JD 3 million multi-purpose tourist centre located on the Dead Sea shore, will be officially opened by the end of July, according to officials of the Ministry of Tourism and the private company implementing the project.

The complex consists of 100-bed four-star hotel, chalets, swimming pools, restaurants, tennis and squash courts and other facilities, according to the officials.

The project is an integrated spa and recreational centre for visitors from Jordan and abroad, especially those seeking the therapeutic and curative effects of the mineral water in the Dead Sea.

According to the private company, the complex, located some 60 kilometres from Amman, offers the best facilities for the treatment of skin diseases.

Monday, the first day of Eid Al Adha, will mark the opening of a trial period which will last until the complex is formally opened by the end of the month.

Eid Al Adha begins today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and the rest of the Islamic World today begin 'Eid Al Adha (feast of sacrifice) marking the climax of this year's pilgrimage to the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina.

Jordan has declared a six-day public holiday starting Sunday and all official institutions will remain closed until Saturday morning except some of the essential services.

On the occasion of the feast, His Majesty King Hussein received congratulatory cables from all official and public institutions. The cables paid tribute to the King's efforts at the different national, Arab, Islamic and international levels in the service of Arab and Islamic causes, particularly the Palestinian cause.

Cables came from the prime minister, the ministers, the speaker and members of the Upper House of Parliament, the speaker and members of the Lower House of Parliament, the chief justice, Amman mayor, the Armed Forces chief of staff, directors of the Public Security, the Civil Defence and the General Intelligence departments and the acting commander of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) in Jordan.

Congratulations also came from heads of states of Arab and Islamic countries as well as friendly states.



BARGAINING: A sheep is weighed and priced Sunday ahead of the Eid Al Adha (Feast of Sacrifice), which begins Monday (photo by 'Yousef Al Alham)

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, W. Germany to exchange advisory services

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved the exchange of memoranda of understanding between Jordan and the West German government on advisory services. According to the memoranda, which are still to be signed for the Jordanian government by Planning Ministry secretary-general, the West German government will provide advisory services to the afforestation projects in Jordan. The Cabinet also approved the dissolution of the Sahab Municipal Council and decided to form a committee which will serve as a caretaker council pending the election of a new municipal council. The committee is headed by Sahab sub-district governor.

IDB to grant loans for industries

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) board of directors has decided to grant 14 loans totalling JD 2.55 million to finance industrial and service projects. Since the beginning of this year the bank has granted 55 loans amounting to JD 9.1 million to finance industrial, service, tourist and health projects throughout the Kingdom.

JD 5.02m budget for Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Municipal Council has approved a JD 5,021,661 budget. Zarqa Mayor Yasser Al Omari said that the budget will be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment for approval. The budget includes allocations for the construction of new roads, asphalted streets, construction of embankments and pavements, acquisition of land, constructing culverts and bridges and building retaining walls, as well as updating the city's organisational plan and installing traffic lights.

Study to review charitable societies services

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of the Ministry of Social Development and the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) will carry out a comprehensive evaluation study of the charitable societies in Amman Governorate, starting July 8. The 10-day study is aimed at reviewing the conditions of charitable societies and their activities in voluntary services. The team members will discuss with the societies' administrative committees ways for implementing community-based productive projects and consolidating contributions to national development plans. Based on the findings of the study, GUVS will provide cash assistance to societies to upgrade the performance of voluntary societies in Jordan.

NRCS to raise funds for Iran victims

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Red Crescent Society (NRCS) has launched a campaign to raise funds for the victims of the earthquake in Iran, according to the Society's President Ahmad Abu Qoura. He said that the society had opened an account at the Arab Bank, to receive cash contributions for the Iranian victims.

Bridges closed July 2 and 3

AMMAN (Petra) — The two bridges across the river Jordan will be closed on Monday and Tuesday July 2 and 3 for Eid Al Adha feast, according to an announcement by the Public Security Department (PSD). The announcement said that the bridges will be reopened for normal traffic between the West Bank and Jordan on Wednesday July 4.

Fast postal services expanded

AMMAN (Petra) — The fast delivery mail services, currently covering 25 countries, will be extended as of Sunday to cover two additional countries Morocco and Yemen, according to Director General of the Post and Postal Savings Corporation.

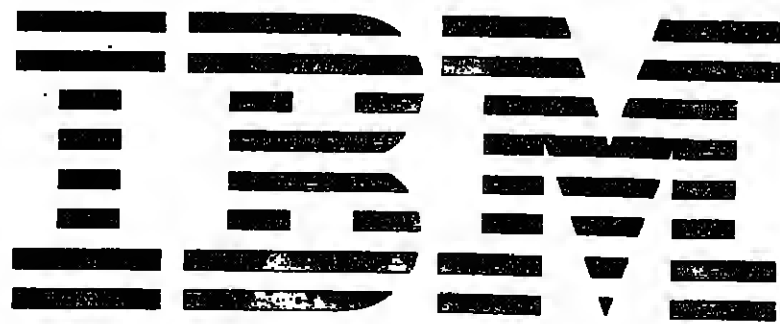
British Council director-general to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sir Richard Francis, director general of the British Council, will be visiting Jordan, July 5-8. During his visit, he will attend the inaugural concert of the English National Ballet at the Royal Cultural Centre on July 5 and have audiences with the minister of education and with the acting president of the University of Jordan. Sir Richard Francis became director-general of the British Council on July 8, 1987.

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Kuwait P.O. Box 4175 Tel: 565 30 00
Khoran Business Machines P.O. Box 169 Tel: 80 21 10
Oman GBM Oman P.O. Box 9307 Tel: 43 53 95

Jordan Times

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Weekly Political Pulse

Waltzing Matilda or is it Bush?

By Walid Sadi

"It is not interesting to watch the U.S. take two or three steps backwards every time it dares to make one step forward. This waltz policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict is certainly not becoming of a superpower of the stature of the U.S. This zig zagging in position happened just too many times to remain amusing. It is disturbing to the parties involved in the Middle East conflict just as it is, and should be, disturbing to the American people. What exacerbated this decades long U.S. policy are three principle features of this

incredible U.S. perspective. Few months ago, the Arah World got infuriated when the U.S. Senate, under the prodding of U.S. Senator Robert Dole, adopted a resolution proclaiming Jerusalem a united city under Israeli jurisdiction. Then a miracle happened, or should we say a mirage, when the senator reversed himself on that infamous resolution and told Arabs and Israelis alike, during a visit to the Middle East, that the resolution is wrong, offered his apologies for its adoption and promised

to repeal it as soon as he sets foot in the U.S. capital. We all know what happened to Dole's promise to rectify the mischievous error committed by him and his colleagues. His words simply got drowned in the U.S. domestic politics where the Jewish lobby proved again and again that it has the U.S. Congress by the balls!! Then came U.S. President George Bush's turn to prove the obvious and the invariability of the Jewish lobby machine. That occurred when he slipped and followed his conscience on the issue of Jew-

ish immigration and the unacceptable move to resettle the immigrants in East Jerusalem. All hell and furor broke loose at the thought of the U.S. president breaking away from long-held traditions and in less than 24 hours the president was recanting his own words and intentions to suit the interests of his Jewish constituency. Few days ago U.S. Secretary of State James Baker rebelled temporarily from customary U.S. policy when he pointed his finger at Tel Aviv and

described it as the stumbling block in the path of the so-called peace process. His offer of the White House telephone number to Shamir to call when he is ready to talk serious peace business was arrogantly and defiantly rebuffed by Tel Aviv which hastened to offer Shamir's number when Washington is ready to accept his terms of for peace in the Middle East.

So there we have it. The U.S. is irrevocably a captive of Israel and there is not much that can be done about it except when the American people rebel against this tyranny and start taking effective measures to put an end to it. Till that point in time one should not be pinning hope on Washington to rescue the peace process from imminent demise. But for that to happen, the Arab players need to amend their ways towards themselves and towards the U.S. and its people. There are many ways available to the Arab side to adopt towards this purpose and goal. This will be the subject of future writings.

Happy Eid

TODAY Jordan, along with the Arab and Islamic worlds, celebrates Eid Al Adha. This Eid, as any other holy occasion in Islam, is a time for soul searching and positive thinking. In fact in the pilgrimage to Mecca which precedes the Eid Muslims are oriented towards meditation and spiritualism. For Muslims to indulge in mundane and material issues and rejoice in the feast in an incomplete manner is no true reflection of this holy occasion.

Deviation from the true spirit of such holy days casts heavy shadows on the real meanings of the Eid and paints it with colours that are alien to Islam.

The pilgrimage to Mecca is an occasion to rekindle our spiritual ties with our creator and should strengthen our compassion for fellow men and women, specially the less fortunate among them. Such an occasion should remind us of our duty and obligations towards the needy not only in the literal sense but also in the figurative sense. It goes without saying that the dimensions and scope of such attitudes and perspectives are not confined to the individual level, but include the collective level as well.

Inter-Arab and inter-Islamic relations come within the purview of this true spirit and meaning of Eid Al Adha which we enjoy today. Nothing could enhance the message of these happy days and fulfil their spiritual objectives more than to see the Arab and Islamic countries enjoying good brotherly relations devoid of ill feeling and animosity. We, therefore, are both confident and hopeful that we can help ourselves and attain the degree of fraternity and goodwill which is asked of us.

We shall congratulate ourselves and each other on the feast only to the extent that we succeed in fulfilling the spiritual message of the occasion. There are signs, albeit faint ones, that we now realise what we should do and acknowledge more than ever, our shortcomings. In this sense we have a right to feel optimistic with regard to the future.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday described Shamir's message to U.S. President Bush as a defiance to the European Community as EC statement issued in Dublin last Tuesday. It said that Shamir is trying to force the United States to take a stand that would prevent the EC from having any say in the Middle East question and to enlist the U.S. administration's assistance in imposing total hegemony on the Arab World. It is no secret that most nations including the EC now believe that the Middle East is facing the danger of war as a result of Israel's practices and intransigence, and Shamir's message was clearly intended to secure the United States full backing for Israel's adventures in this region, the paper said. The EC statement clearly reflected the European countries' concern over the dangerous situation in the region at large, and over the plight of the Palestinian people in particular, continued the paper. It said for this reason Israel is now striving to deny Europe any role in Middle Eastern affairs by trying to place the United States firmly in its own camp. Needless to say that any American move to further consolidate Israel's aggressive stand is to be considered as a dangerous development which would transform the United States as a full partner to Israel in the open aggression against the Arab Nation.

Warnings by a number of Arab states of an imminent Israeli aggression on the Arab Nation are justified in view of the emergence in Israel of an aggression-oriented government of extremists bent on pursuing policies that would eventually trigger a new conflict to the region, says Mahmoud Al Rimawi Sunday. Jordan, Iraq, Libya and the PLO are justified in issuing the warnings since they are the most likely parties to be exposed to such Israeli aggression because of their continued support to the uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the writer notes. What prompts observers to believe that war is inevitable is a belief on the part of the U.S.-Israeli alliance that the Jewish state should muster sufficient power to make it the dominant force in the Arab region, and that no Arab country should be able to acquire any military strength that might endanger Israel's security at any time, the writer continues. The United States for its part has been providing all support and aid to Israel, enabling it to maintain its occupation of Southern Lebanon, its usurpation of Palestinian land, its aggression on Baghdad and Tunis; and has been giving Israel full backing at the U.N. Security Council, the writer notes. But he says at present Israel is no doubt preparing for a major multi-purpose adventure that would result in new realities and one which it hopes would force the Arabs to accept its terms. Only by reviving the Arab Defence Pact which should essentially include Egypt, says Rimawi, can the Arab Nation ward off this looming danger and ensure guarantees safeguarding their national interests.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily made a mockery of Arab moderate policies which had been based on the assumption that Washington would bring peace to the Middle East on a silver platter. The paper said that since 1967, Washington has been exerting all its efforts to consolidate Israel's hold over the occupied Arab territories and to force the Arabs to offer further concessions to the Jewish state. The United States does not want an international peace conference which it feels is not in Israel's interest nor does it want to have a solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict which would put an end to Israel's dreams, the paper noted. It said that the United States-Israeli alliance aims to ensure more lands in Palestine for the settlement of Jewish immigrants, and wants to ensure the existence of Israel at the expense of the Arab Nation.

Who gets how much?

By Heba Saleh

Despite repeated denials from both Egyptian and Ethiopian officials, rumours persist in the Egyptian press that the Ethiopians are building dams on the Blue Nile with the help of Israel, and that as a result less water will flow into Egypt. The Blue Nile is the source of 86 per cent of the water reaching Egypt. Egyptian agriculture is totally dependent on the Nile. The country uses up annually 55.5 billion cubic metres of water. Drought-prone Ethiopia uses only a paltry 0.6 bcm of the Nile waters originating in its lands.

The rumours are proving hard to scotch because Israel is said to be involved, and because Ethiopia periodically declares that it has the right to more water. In addition, Egypt and Ethiopia have a history of tense relations. In the '70s, Egypt, under Anwar Sadat, supported Somalia in its war against Ethiopia. Then in 1979, Sadat announced a plan to divert the Nile across the Sinai desert to Israel. In retaliation, Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam declared that he would go ahead with a number of projects that would reduce the flow of the Blue Nile to Egypt. Sadat threatened military intervention.

Since then, Egypt's policy has changed. President Mubarak has been improving Egypt's relations with its African neighbours. Mengistu and Mubarak exchanged visits, and in January 1990 the Ethiopian minister of foreign affairs was dispatched to Cairo to assure the Egyptians that his country could not afford to build any projects on the Nile. Yet, notwithstanding all this official goodwill, water remains a sensitive issue.

Consider the events at the Nile Conference convened in Loodoo in early May. With representatives claiming that they were articulating their own rather than their governments' views, the conference provided Egypt and Ethiopia with an occasion to unofficially sound each other out on the water issue. The main Ethiopian paper called for the "integrated development of Nile Basin waters" — an enterprise which would involve coordination of the water requirements of the nine basin states. This means that Egypt and Sudan, currently the two major users of the river, might have to share more of their water with upstream neighbours (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zaïre, Tanzania, Rwanda and

Burundi). On the other hand, the main Egyptian paper, delivered by Samir Ahmad, a retired diplomat and former ambassador to Ethiopia, concentrated on emphasising the validity, according to international law, of a series of agreements signed before independence by colonial powers (Britain, Italy and Belgium) on behalf of Egypt and the upstream states. These agreements guaranteed that no dams or other hydrological projects would be constructed on the river, its sources or tributaries without the consent of Egypt. The Egyptian position is that these treaties are binding until renegotiated.

So why aren't they being renegotiated? Egypt, according to Ahmad, is not reluctant. The downstream state with the most to lose, it has been active in promoting regional cooperation through organisations like Undugu, a ministerial level grouping which aims at coordinating policies on various technical and political matters including water resources. Members are the Central African Republic and the Nile-basin states, except Ethiopia and Kenya. Ethiopia says that it does not regard Undugu as the proper forum for discussing the Nile.

Egypt, however, believes that Ethiopia has other reasons for making it difficult to reach an agreement. Said a well informed Egyptian source: "They see the Nile waters as a trump card which they do not want to play except at a price — that we help solve their political problems, the civil war (against the Eritreans) which they think that the Arab states are fuelling."

The Eritreans have used Sudan as a base for attacking the Ethiopian army. A number of other Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria and Kuwait have been rumoured to be financing the Eritrean nationalists.

Ultimately, it is to Egypt's advantage to harmonise its relations with Ethiopia. Hydrological projects in Ethiopia may prove in the long term beneficial to Egypt. If, as meteorologists suggest, it is likely that there will be less rainfall on the Blue Nile sources in the future, then it may be wise to shift over-year storage from the Aswan High Dam lake to Lake Tana in the Ethiopian highlands, where less water would be lost through evaporation. The water saved could be shared by Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan, and the power generated would benefit the three states — Middle East International.

Israel blocks peace

(Continued from page 1)

doing now. Exports have hit a record this year and we are going in the right direction. There is no magic solution."

Badran said the government has also adopted a labour policy that reduces dependence on foreign labourers and encourages Jordanians to travel abroad, particularly to Gulf Arab states, to take new jobs. He said Jordan has already reached agreements with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Yemen and Libya under which Jordanians would be welcome to take jobs in these countries.

The prime minister, who said the government was incapable of providing new jobs for 45,000 people each year, is planning to boost the private sector and privatise some governmental institutions.

He explained that government institutions such as Royal Jordanian, which has suffered big losses over the past five years, would be left to cover their losses on their own. "The government has no resources to cover such institutions' deficits. We are committed to spending as specified in the budget. This is our policy."

Responding to a question on the lessons learned from the disturbances which marred last May's demonstrations condemning a massacre of Palestinians by an Israeli gunman

near Tel Aviv, the prime minister said that he feared that things "may have gone out of control which would have meant a disaster that nobody wanted."

He explained that the three-day demonstrations "could have resulted in breaking national unity and a rift that would have taken a long time to heal... this is a time when we need to join hands and hearts."

He expressed hope that these incidents "would not recur," and warned that "if they did recur, we would not consider such disturbances as spontaneous actions, but a foreign plan aimed at undermining the security and stability of this country, and would be treated decisively, seriously and swiftly. It would be dealt with differently."

The prime minister denied claims that he had struck "a deal" with the Islamic Bloc at the Lower House of Parliament or that he was allied with the Muslim Brotherhood to guarantee support for his policies.

He explained that while he "insisted that the Islamic Bloc should join the government, it was they who refused to join and preferred to stay outside."

"It makes me laugh how the Islamic Bloc accuses me of not responding to their demands while the others accuse me of responding only to the Islamic bloc," Badran said.

Moscow 'too paralysed' to make deals

By Carol Giacomo
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials report a growing feeling in Washington that the Soviet administration may be too paralysed to reach a deal on German unification.

Moscow has presented the West with a long list of conditions for accepting unification. But it is unclear if the Kremlin team could reach agreement among themselves even if the demands were met, a senior Washington official told Reuters.

"It may be that their system is simply too paralysed to conclude a bargain," he said.

This reflected a more pessimistic view of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's chances of cutting a deal with East and West Germany and the other World War II victors — the United States, France and Britain — than previously expressed.

Other senior U.S. officials visiting East Berlin with Secretary of State James Baker last week stressed that the "train of German unification has left the station," and Moscow had little choice but to get aboard or be isolated.

The official who spoke to Reuters on condition he not be identified said the Bush administration "remains hopeful that the Soviet Union eventually will respond positively to the offers that have been made by the West."

These include nine assurances put forward by Baker to allay Moscow's fears about a resurgent and powerful Germany.

But the official added: "I'd say at this point it's still quite an open question."

"There are still elements of what they are proposing that are clearly unacceptable and it's not clear whether those would drop away," he said.

"If they don't drop away, you

won't have an agreement."

The official was not specific, but in East Berlin last week Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze laid down tough new conditions for unification, including a demand that both Germanys remain members of their respective alliances — NATO and the Warsaw Pact — for five years.

The plan was summarily rejected by the West.

In addition to major demands like limits on German troop levels, Shevardnadze called for a ban on resurgence of Nazi propaganda and preservation of memorials in Germany commemorating those who died fighting Fascism.

The U.S. official said he was certain Germany would give assurances that memorials and cemeteries would be preserved, but no special guarantees should be given on banning Nazi propaganda beyond protections already in the West German constitution.

Many in the West hope the Soviet Communist Party Congress, which opened this week, will strengthen Gorbachev's hand so he has the flexibility to take tough decisions on Germany and arms control, as well as on internal reforms.

A recent meeting of the European Community (EC) that endorsed aid for the Soviet Union, and the forthcoming NATO and Houston economic summits, are also expected to bolster the Soviet Leader and meet Moscow's concerns on German unification.

But the U.S. official noted that while party congress might equal well-weakens Gorbachev or expose a weakened position.

This "could lead to a different set of conclusions, which is that the current difficulty in making decisions and engaging on issues is not likely to ease up," the official said.

'We are uneasy — fearful'

By John Owen-Davies
 Reuter

MIDYAT, Turkey — A spate of cold-blooded killings has struck fear into Syrian Christians living among Muslims in southeastern Turkey.

Timotheos Samuel Aktas, metropolitan of the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch for this rugged region of mainly Muslim but secular Turkey where Kurdish rebels are active, said five members of his flock had been killed in and around Midyat since April 21.

"We are uneasy. We are fearful. Nothing like this has happened before," he told Reuters at his 1,600-year-old walled Deyrulmur Monastery perched on the top of a barren hill.

Turkish and church officials can find no clear motives for the

killings, at a time when the Syrian Christian community is crumbling to its ancient heartland — mainly for political and economic reasons but also because of violence.

A Turkish official in the remote and dusty agricultural town of Midyat said he believed rebels in the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) might have been responsible for shooting dead four Christians in an effort to geocate Muslim-Christian conflict.

Syrian Christian sources fear Muslim fundamentalists may have been behind the slayings, put at five by the church — a married couple and a father and son shot dead, and a man with heart problems beaten to death — in three separate attacks.

They said the victims were killed at night after answering a

knock on the door and that the same type of automatic weapon was believed to have been used in the shootings.

"For many centuries the two communities have lived in peace and mutual respect," local Governor Hayrettin Altinok told Reuters in Midyat, 1,000 kilometres southeast of Ankara.

"It is possibly the PKK but we don't have any evidence... this may be part of a policy of putting Muslims and Christians into conflict," he told Reuters, adding that two people with no apparent PKK connections were being held by police.

Syrian Christians are sceptical about the involvement of the PKK, whose six-year-old insurgency has claimed nearly 2,500 lives — mainly other Kurds and Turkish troops — in an area where most of Turkey's estimated

10 million Kurdish-speakers live. "There is nothing for the PKK to do with us," we have seen none of them," said Aktas, whose monastery near Midyat was the site of church's patriarchate for 650 years until 1933.

"I travel in the region and am respected by government and police. There is no trouble from anybody," he said.

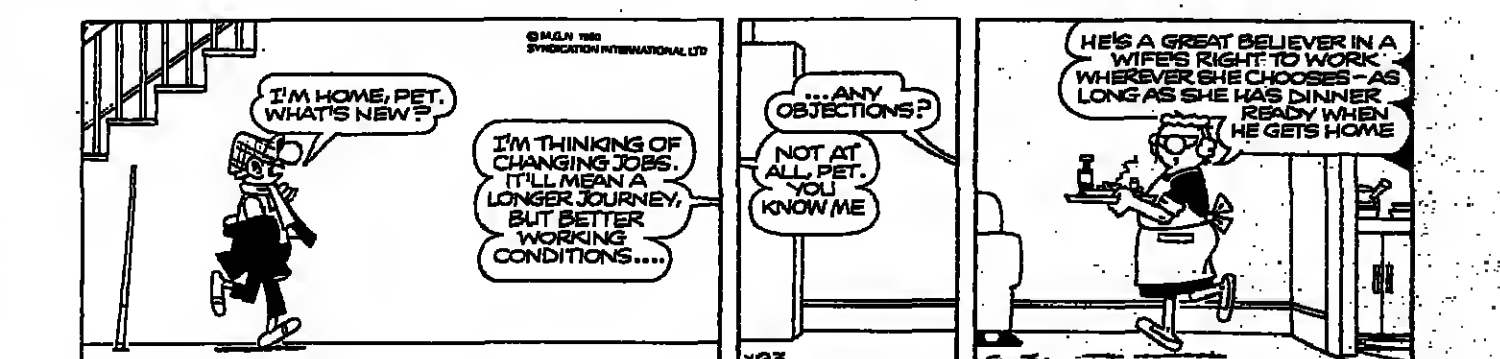
Aktas is one of 18 metropolitans in Bishopies stretching from the United States to India tending a flock totalling some 3.5 million people, also known as Jacobite Christians.

There is no evident religious tension in Midyat, where some 2,500 of the 40,000 inhabitants are Syrian Christians, but the two communities generally live in different areas.

Mutt'n'Jeff

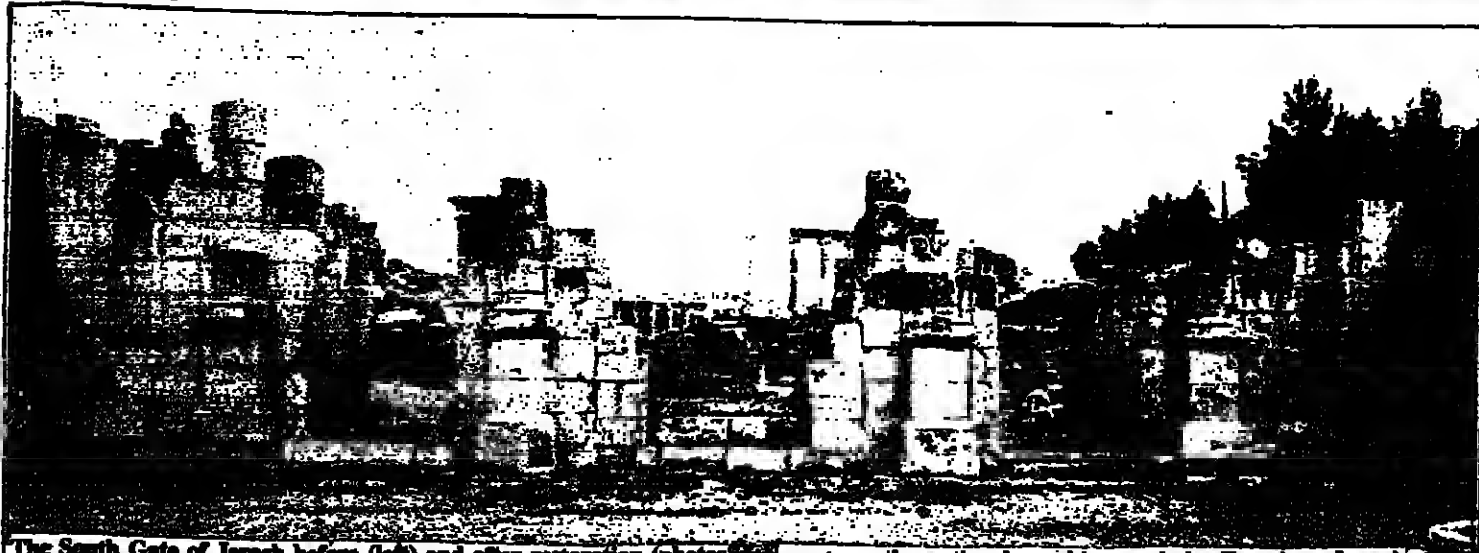


Andy Capp



Peanuts





The South Gate of Jerash before (left) and after restoration (photos courtesy: the national archives and the French embassy)

1,800-year-old triumphal arch restored at Jerash

By Ica Wabbeh
Jordan Times Staff Writer

JERASH — Jerash, the Graeco-Roman city whose once-bustling stone-paved streets come to life again each year during the international Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts, has a nice surprise to offer its visitors this summer; it is the restored "triumphal arch" of Emperor Adrian (who reigned between 117 and 138 AD), famed for the attention he gave to developing industry, promoting letters and arts and above all known for his defensive policy and strategies.

The monument, originally built in 129 AD, later became part of a gate in the circumvallated city and is now known as the South Gate.

In a bid to conserve the precious patrimony that speaks volumes of an ancient civilisation, and in pursuit of promoting tourism, the Department of Antiquities cooperated with the French Institute of Archaeology for the Near East in the restoration work of the South Gate in the area surrounding Zens Temple. The formal unveiling of the restored gate took place Thursday.

Restoration work at the Jerash Gate started in 1987.

According to Christophe Wagner, the architect in charge of the restoration work, the base for the delicate task was a wall of two to three metres elevation with five mounds of stones. Starting from there, a titanic job faced the team of six stone cutters, two masons, three workers, one crane operator and Jordanian and French architects. The gate had crumbled and the stones were in a jumble, complicating the task of modern-day workers to restore the semblance of the original.

But today, as some of the architects claim, the restored work may shame the original.

Painstakingly and meticulously the original stones were sorted out and listed. The work, according to Wagner, involved the skills of a detective. "It was like a giant puzzle where thousands of pieces had to fit together."

Among things that helped were the stone texture and colour and the technical knowledge that stones that face the south do not age as much as those facing other cardinal points. With these few facts

and lots of enthusiasm and dedication, work proceeded slowly but surely.

Seventy-four per cent of the stones used in restoration are original stones found at the site. The rest were tailored locally by adroit workers, some of whom had been in the business for a long time.

Abdallah Ismail Al Qaswani, a pleasant, jovial, small man past his middle age, gladly volunteered information to the Jordan Times.

With the pride of a skilled artisan and a sense of belonging to the land, he recollected "in a few minutes his past

undertakings. Since 1960 Qaswani has been working with the Department of Antiquities and was part of teams that restored many Islamic castles. In 1985, with the French again, he worked and finished restoring Iraq Al Amir. In 1987 he started work at Jerash.

"Was it difficult?"

"No. The only problem was that the stones were scattered all over. But we had equipment and accomplished the task, as you can see."

"How did you find the French?"

"They are good people. They appreciate work."

The same question, addressed this time to the French architect, Wagner, received almost the same answer:

"The Jordanians did their job conscientiously. They are hospitable, nice people."

"Did work take more time than you expected to restore a monument this size?"

"I would say it took more time than it would have been required at a new site. The stones were strewn. It took us some time to identify and sort them out. Ten years ago there were here only some ruins and scattered stones," said Wagner. "We are proud and sure

that Adrian would recognise the arch built in his honour."

Despite their frankness while discussing the technical and architectural nature of the work involved, none of the French team volunteered to answer how much the project cost.

In the last rays of the setting sun, the triumphal arch stands majestically, projecting its glorious shadow heralding days of new glory.

As the French put it, "it will be the best curtain raiser for the Jerash Festival," which opens July 11.

Cats, cats everywhere

By Mimi Mann
Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — This is no place for someone who doesn't like cats.

They're everywhere. Pyramids have cats. Apartment stairwells have them, and offices, and hospital examination rooms. Cats prowl hotel lobbies and restaurants. Theatres have cats, and bazaars have cats.

Even the occasional airplane has them.

It made front-page headlines: "cat forces plane back to Cairo." The story attempted to explain how a cat managed to find its way into the cockpit of an Air Sinai flight heading for the Red Sea diving centre of Sharm El Sheikh.

The cat's howls evoked "pandemonium among the 31 passengers," the article said, forcing a turnaround and emergency landing.

The plane took off again only after policemen gave the cat a chance to make a quick exit.

Such capers are legendary in Egypt, where cats have a storied history. Cats were worshipped even before there were Pharaohs and remained sacred long after the Pharaohs were gone.

Egyptians long have recognised the skills of the creatures.

Among Cairo's most famous performers are the singing cats of El-Gomhouriya Theatre, where operas and other highbrow programmes are staged. The animals long ago claimed the theatre as theirs.

Hassan Kamy, Egypt's top tenor, recalled some of his less than impressive moments in opera when he was upstaged by El-Gomhouriya's home-grown

comedy teams of cats.

"It was the last act of 'la boheme.' I was holding the dying Mimi in my arms. The orchestra was silenced for the finale. A cat walked on stage," Kamy said.

"At first the audience simply giggled quietly. But the cat took a long time getting across the stage, and I kept holding the dying Mimi."

"Finally, the audience was in hysterics."

But that wasn't the worst time.

Kamy told the awful tale of two cats, another opera and a lamp: "It was a stage prop," he said. "All was fine until two cats decided to walk on stage and go to sleep at the base."

"It was act three, a love duet. You could feel the emotion in the air, the audience getting hotter. But so were the cats."

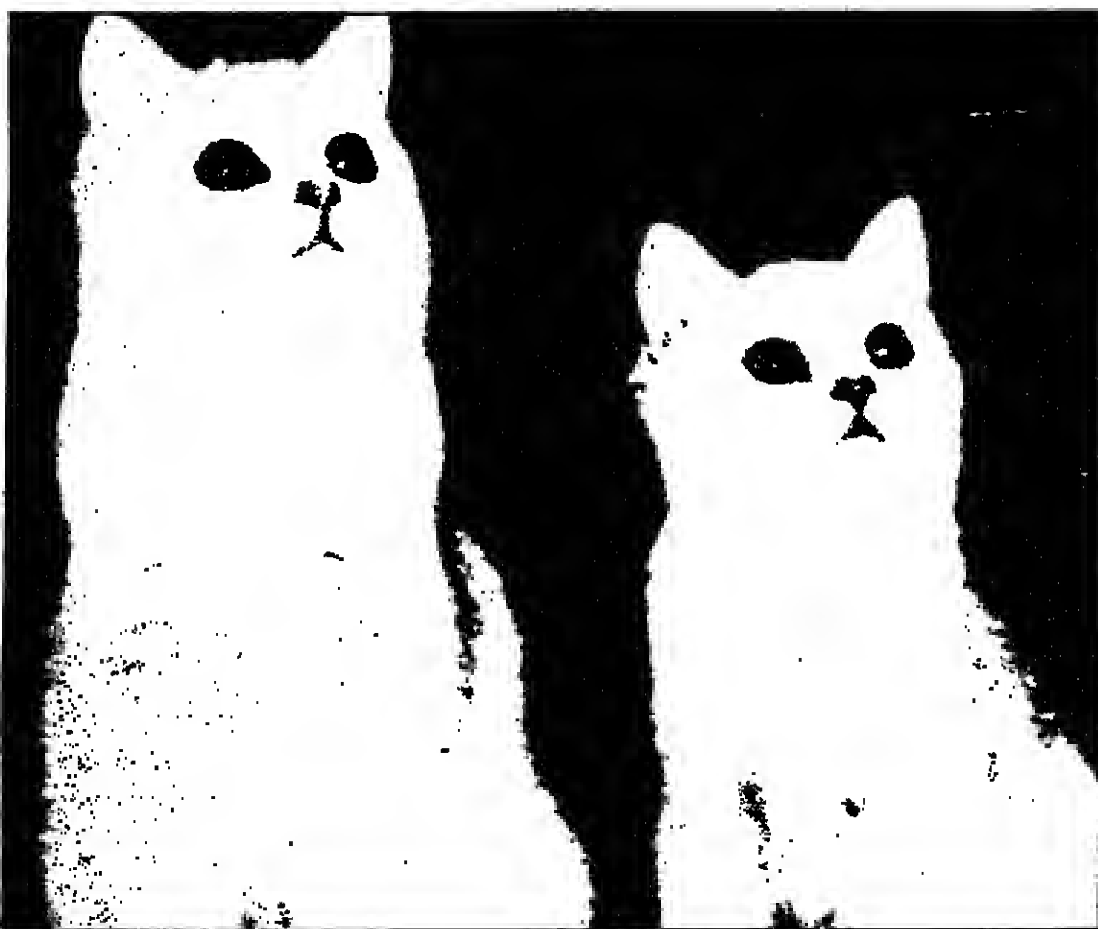
"They chose this moment to begin a romantic interlude under the lamp. The higher the diva sang, the higher they sang. ... the next day newspapers asked, 'which had the greater range, the soprano or the cats?'"

Cats made another artistic headline last year by disrupting an Italian group's performance at Cairo's Taliaa Theatre during an experimental theatre festival.

The action in the avant-garde play occurred on a beach, and the actors insisted that sand be spread 30 centimetres deep across the stage.

Midway through the performance, a troupe of cats wandered onto the stage. Delighted by the huge sandbox, they did what cats normally do with sand. The actors were horrified, but this time it was the audience, not the cats, who howled.

Kamy said, "what can you do?"



Short-haired and long legged, the tabbies were much loved in life and much mourned at death.

Nobody will touch a cat. Even now, in the villages, people are scared of them, scared to harm them or anger them. Cats are sacred in Egypt.

They have been since the earliest days. A favourite goddess was the cat basket, sleek and sensual. House cats, domesticated from wilder strains, are depicted on tomb paintings as enjoying the better things in life.

Short-haired and long-legged, the tabbies were much loved in life, much mourned at death.

Especially in Greek and Roman times, around 2,000 years ago, worshippers bought mummified cats to bury near baster's sacred temples.

Embalmed and wrapped in intricate bandages, cat mummies were dedicated by the thousands. In one temple, archaeologists uncovered 300,000. Sometimes even cat fetuses were mummified, occasionally buried with a tiny mouse or ball of yarn.

Mummified or live, ancient cats never lost their special status. An official record of the time tells of an unfortunate Roman soldier in Alexandria who accidentally killed a cat. In turn, an angry mob killed him.

Owning an Egyptian cat was so prestigious in antiquity that Phoenician and Greek traders and Christian monks did big business exporting them to the Far

East and around the Mediterranean area, especially to Italy.

Trade ended when a place had enough cats to start its own colony. Thus did Rome, not Cairo, gain fame as the world's cat capital.

Islamic invasions during the seventh century and afterward disrupted many parts of Egypt's daily life. But even the Muslims considered the whiskered mascots good omens, which protected home and family.

The Prophet Mohammad is said to have been fond of cats. One story relates that Mohammad awoke from a nap, wanted to get out of bed but found a cat asleep on his robe.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

OPEC in crisis as prices slide

By Nicholas Moore
Reuters

LONDON — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is in the throes of what may prove to be its gravest crisis since the oil price crash of 1986, petroleum industry executives say.

Average spot prices are around \$14 per barrel, down from \$21 since early January under the weight of a new glut.

The slide is blamed on the way some of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries are breaking their output quotas.

The oil ministers are now engaged in frantic bilateral talks ahead of a meeting in Geneva July 25 which, barring a hiccup in world supply, may be a last chance to boost prices.

It may also be a last chance to restore the credibility of the 13-nation cartel which has its 30th anniversary next month.

OPEC's charter says its goal is stable revenues for members and some leaders like Iranian Minister Gholamreza Azadeh say the time has come for a showdown with the rule-breakers.

"A country cannot be a member of an organisation and act against it," he said at the weekend.

OPEC, say Western industry officials, is paying the penalty for thinking that stronger demand for petroleum would enable it to muddle through 1990 without a reconciliation of members' conflicting demands for higher quotas.

The problem goes back through last year when the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a federation of Gulf states with just 1.5 million people and annual per capita income of \$16,000, insisted on selling more than the rest of OPEC would sanction.

Another member, Kuwait, also failed to keep to its assigned quota, triggering violations by others.

Western industry sources say reasons of prestige and commercial interest may motivate Kuwait and the UAE.

Kuwait has its own "down-

stream" world refining and petrol pump network which can make money out of cheap crude oil.

It has reorganised its oil industry under the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), now the world's 12th largest oil company. Like other commercial oil giants, KPC chafes under any curbs.

Abdul Hadi Kandeel, oil minister of non-OPEC Egypt, says he thinks the cartel may fall apart as others, like Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, follow Kuwait's lead.

The conflict of interest between OPEC members involved in the downstream business and those who are not could sabotage OPEC," he told Reuters earlier this year.

For whatever reasons, both Kuwait and the UAE have insisted on producing up to two million barrels a day each, whereas the most that OPEC would assign them was around 1.5 million.

Kuwait accepted a quota for that volume but broke it.

The UAE refused, so OPEC gave it only a nominal quota of 1.1 million, hoping that strong demand would offset the excess.

Demand, however, faltered this year. Nor did a stopgap accord negotiated early in May do much to bring down Kuwaiti and UAE output, even when backed by veiled threats from Saudi Arabia that it would break quota and cause a full scale price crash.

Iran now threatens a free-for-all, Iraq says it is losing a billion dollars a year for each dollar off the price and Venezuela has been questioning the point of a quota system.

Trying to cool the crisis, Saudi Minister Hisham Nazer has just visited Kuwait and the UAE. The Kuwaiti and Indonesian ministers will this week see the OPEC President Algeria's Sadeq Bous-sena, who has said a 1986-style crash, when prices went under \$10, is not impossible.

Hitherto it was assumed that the July 25 meeting would try to fit in Kuwait and the UAE under new quotas, but both Iraq and Iran now say the priority is quota discipline and firmer prices.



The Tunisian government's goal is to lessen the economy's heavy dependence on state intervention and administrative controls so that it can become competitive and more reliant on the private sector.

Tunisia's reform plan produces turnaround

Despite a difficult external environment throughout the 1980s, characterised by sharply falling oil prices, Tunisia avoided serious external debt problems and put in place measures to turn its economy around. In the following article, Thomas K. Morrison, deputy chief of the International Monetary Fund's North African division, reviews the comprehensive and outward-oriented adjustment programme adopted by Tunisia in 1986, and the country's success in reducing imbalances, diversifying its economy, and restoring strong export growth. Morrison also outlines the series of structural reforms implemented by Tunisia, which are providing the basis for its economic recovery.

WASHINGTON (IMF Survey) — During the 1970s, Tunisia prospered as revenues from rapidly rising oil exports led to an increase in investment to 30 per cent from 20 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). At the same time, the government followed prudent financial policies, and directed investment into human resources and diversification of the economic base.

After a decade of rapid economic growth and development, Tunisia experienced an extremely difficult period in the 1980s, with a large deterioration in the terms of trade and declining petroleum reserves. Petroleum exports fell from more than SDR 370 million in 1986 owing to adverse price and volume movements. The share of petroleum exports declined to 25 per cent from over 50 per cent of total exports during the same period. Total exports fell by approximately SDR 700 million, while non-energy exports grew only marginally, causing import volume to contract by about 20 per cent. Real economic growth dropped to an average of less than three per cent a year.

External and internal imbalances emerged in the 1980s as investment and consumption — particularly by the public sector — continued at levels close to those of the booming 1970s. The external current account deficit, which averaged 8.5 per cent of GDP during 1981-86 and reached a peak of 10.9 per cent of GDP in 1986, necessitated increased borrowing from private external sources at high interest rates. The rising level of external debt, combined with declining export earnings, led to an increase in the ratio of debt service to exports of goods and services from 14 per cent in 1980 to 28 per cent in 1986. By the end of 1986, gross reserves had fallen to the equivalent of five weeks of imports. The overall government budget deficit increased to five-eighths per cent of

GDP during 1982-86 from less than three per cent of GDP in 1981. An accommodating monetary policy resulted in an average expansion of domestic credit of 20 per cent a year during 1981-85 and an increase in the consumer price index of about 10 per cent annually.

In late 1985, the government formulated policies to reduce the fiscal and external deficits through new revenue measures, expenditure restraint, and depreciation of the exchange rate. Policy problems were compounded in 1986, however, when oil prices, dropped by approximately 50 per cent and a severe drought led to a two-thirds decline in cereal production.

In the expectation that Tunisia would become a net importer of petroleum by 1991, the authorities adopted a comprehensive, long-run approach in the Seventh Development Plan (1987-91). Their top priority during the first phase of this programme was to reduce the internal and external imbalances. At the same time, the government introduced a series of structural reforms to reorient economic policies away from the heavy reliance on administrative controls and public sector involvement that had developed in the 1970s and early 1980s.

Reducing imbalances

A comprehensive series of measures adopted in 1986 and 1987 contributed to a stunning turnaround in the balance of payments. The current account deficit fell from eight per cent of GDP in 1986 to less than one per cent in 1987 because of a decline in the investment-to-GDP ratio and an increase in the savings ratio. The latter stemmed from tightened fiscal policy and a sharp depreciation of the real effective exchange rate.

Exogenous factors also moved in Tunisia's favour in 1987, with a recovery of agricultural produc-

tion following the 1986 drought and a three per cent improvement in the terms of trade, largely as a result of a partial recovery in petroleum prices. Led by strong exports, tourism, and agricultural production, real GDP grew 5.8 per cent in 1987. Inflation was contained at 8 per cent, despite the rise in administered prices. The large decline in investment, however, aggravated unemployment, which rose to about 15 per cent in 1987 from 13 per cent in 1985.

The real effective exchange rate depreciated by approximately 22 per cent in 1986 and by further five per cent in 1987. The export and tourism sectors responded to these improved incentives; non-energy export volume increased more than 13 per cent in 1987 and tourism receipts jumped 40 per cent in real terms. Imports also declined four per cent in volume, largely as a result of sharply lower imports of capital goods and food.

The balance of payments continued to perform well in 1988, when the current account moved to an unprecedented surplus of one per cent of GDP. Non-energy export volume grew by 12 per cent, and tourism receipts almost doubled owing, in part, to the opening of the border with Libya in April 1988. Gross reserves reached the equivalent of over three months of imports. In 1989, however, the current account moved back into deficit, reflecting the return of tourism to normal levels, high food imports in the wake of a drought, and capital goods imports accompanying the recovery of foreign investment.

Tunisia's turnaround since 1986 since 1986 is striking. After years of declining total exports and stagnant non-energy exports and service receipts, the adjustment measures taken by the government contributed to a growth of exports of goods and services equivalent to 14 percentage points of GDP in the three years from 1987 through 1989. Non-energy export volume grew at an average rate of 14 per cent a year during the same period.

Tunisia's external debt situation has also been considerably alleviated in recent years. The ratio of debt service to exports of goods and services fell from 28 per cent in 1986 to 22.5 per cent in 1989, reflecting rather modest rates of debt accumulation.

Romania needs \$1b a year

KUWAIT (AP) — A decree published Sunday set Kuwait's state budget for the 1990-91 fiscal year with a deficit of \$5 billion.

The billion-dollar increase over last year's projected gap comes at a time of rising spending and falling world oil prices.

The decree issued by Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah fixed public expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991 at 3,634 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$12.7 billion).

Revenues for the same period were projected at 2,405 million dinars (\$8.4 billion).

The deficit was officially put at 1,469 million dinars (\$5.1 billion).

That would leave a deficit of 1,229 million dinars (\$4.3 billion). However, deposits in the posterity fund drive it up to 1,469 million dinars (\$5.1 billion).

The government is obliged by law to allocate 10 per cent of the revenues to the future generations fund, a facility intended to ensure prosperity in the post-oil era.

Last year, the expenditure was set at 3,326 million dinars against revenues of 2,230 million dinars (\$7.7 billion), leaving a deficit of 1,096 million dinars or about \$4 billion.

The final account for the expenditure, revenue and deficit for 1989-90 has yet to be announced.

Kuwait is a prominent member of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and has been suffering budget deficits like other oil-exporting nations of the Gulf since the price of oil began to waver in the early 1980s.

Anticipated oil revenues for the fiscal year 1990-91 have been set at 2,109 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$7.4 billion), or 88 per cent of the total revenues of the state.

Economists noted that if the present decline in oil prices continues, the oil revenues estimates would not be fulfilled.

Economists and financiers also noted that the deficit, due to be covered by public lending, or from the state's reserves, is alleviated by the country's revenues from foreign investments.

The foreign investment income is usually not included in the state's balance sheet.

Kuwait has more than 100 billion of surplus petrodollars mostly invested in the United States, Britain, West Germany, France and other industrialised countries. They take the form of equity shares, government bonds, real estate or bank deposits.

The state's latest foreign investment ventures was the takeover of Mobil Italiana's downstream operations for \$300 million.

The budget was approved by the new cabinet Wednesday and passed to the emir, Sheikh Jaber for approval.

The next budget should be debated by the newly established interim legislature, the National Council, due to be inaugurated by the emir on July 9.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 2, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can get yourself involved in some minor sinister relationships today unless you are careful and make a point of holding steady to accepted principles and proven methods.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You now find that an outside contact does not see eye to eye with you and it is advisable you do not react in a negative manner but discuss calmly.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A period when a more modern stance needs to be adopted by you if you are to be able to get along with others who have strong and definite views.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have a change of plans in relations to a friend's wishes and that of your close attachment but don't let money be the deciding factor.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) There seems to be a conflict between your home and your outside promises or duties and don't try to get a dynamic person to influence what you do.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Apply your usual standard of conduct and actions to some new interest that arises and you can handle it in such a manner you make headway.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Money dealings with others should be of first concern to you so

talk out how you can be more businesslike and successful in practical matters.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be available to an associate who has some different ideas than those under which you have been operating and don't let family members get in the way.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider well how you can be more efficient with your time on whatever activities you are pursuing and plan hours in a sane, sensible manner.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Sidestep any discussions over money and property matters today and get into the various ways you can make progress gaining intimate desires.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There are some many beneficial changes you can make at your residence today you would be wise to forego some worldly activity to get them attended to.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) It will do you no good to spend time worrying over what you can not avoid today but rather be with good friends and mate working out mutual concerns.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about what you can best do to increase your financial and property well being without getting into any friction with a long time acquaintance.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I've decided to be a vegetarian. From now on, I eat nothing but potato chips!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MOXIA
DAGUR
TINIVE
ACTOLE



Now arrange the checked letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

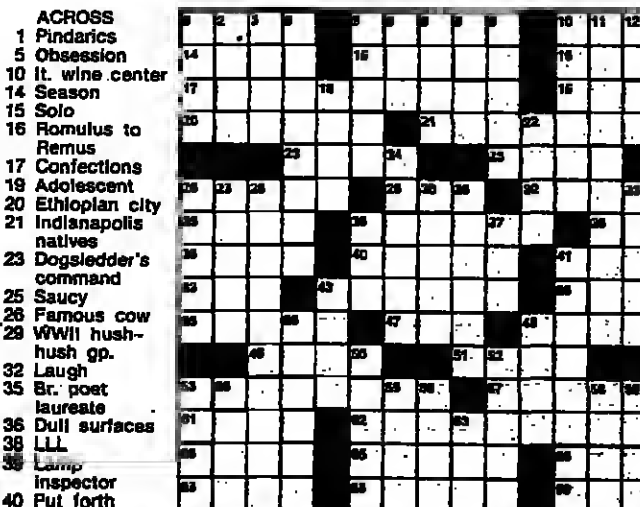
Answer here: THE OF AN

Yesterday's Jumble: AMITY TAWNY FOURTH HEARSE

Answer: What all butchers sell but not many people eat—RAW MEAT

THE Daily Crossword

by Marsha J. De Witt



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ACROSS
1 Pindaris
5 Obsession
10 It wine center
14 Season
15 Solo
16 Romulus to Remus
17 Confections
19 Adolescent
20 Ethiopian city
21 Indianapolis natives
23 Dog's leader's command
25 Saucy
26 Famous cow
28 WWII hush-hush gp.
32 Laugh
35 Br. poet laureate
36 Dull surfaces
38 LLL
39 Lamp
40 Inspector
41 Put forth
41 Heels
42 Inventor's initials
43 Audio's best
44 Neighborhood
45 Ready to go
47 Before cow or horse
48 Horse opera
49 Notion
51 Eyelid
53 Fastener
55 Fastener
57 Canoe power
61 Matterhorn
62 Eglantine
64 Speed of step
65 Depart
66 Egg-shaped
67 Suit to
68 Slipped up
69 Scrut

DOWN
1 Gr. peak
2 Crows
3 Sch. type
4 More humid
5 Parents
6 Bear kin
7 A Beery
8 Division word
9 Moral man?
10 Toga
11 Loved one
12 Bank of seats
13 Hostels
14 Factual
15 Fact
16 Places
17 Put-up jobs
18 Poetry muse
19 Joshua or Ella
20 Loved one
21 Cubic meter
22 Lightning unit
23 Presbyter
24 Attempt
25 Encountered
27 WWII command
28 Witch's brew
29 pot
30 Hurled
31 Fideles
32 Pequot skipper
33 Chisel theater
34 Stair case
35 Chose
36 Epic
37 Land map
38 Pitcher
39 Stern
40 Chisel theater
41 Stair case
42 Chose
43 Adam's rib

Oil price key to Anglo-Saudi deal

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's \$20 billion deal with Britain for sophisticated Tornados jets and other military supplies is on course although weak oil prices could eventually undermine the kingdom's ability to pay.

Gulf-based diplomats and oil industry sources said Saturday the deal was going well but that the price of oil, with which Saudi Arabia pays for the equipment, remained the key to the project's health.

"I can assure you that there are no problems for the time being. It is conceivable that if oil prices stay this low for a long time there might be a problem. But we are talking about months ahead at current prices," said one source.

Spot prices of crude are running just under \$4 a barrel below the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) reference price of \$18 a barrel and 30 per cent lower than they were at the beginning of the year.

Late last year, Saudi Arabia paid over \$1 billion to British Aerospace (BAE), which produces the Tornado, to overcome a cash squeeze resulting from weak oil prices.

A report in Thursday's Financial Times newspaper in London, that the project had again hit funding problems, knocked down the shares of BAE.

But this was quickly followed by denials from BAE, and from Panavia Aircraft GmbH, the West German manager of the Anglo-German-Italian Tornado venture.

On Saturday, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) carried a report quoting Saudi defence ministry aide Prince Fahd Ibn Abdullah as saying the project, which includes a vast range of equipment factories, and military bases, was not in difficulty.

The sources said Prince Fahd, in London for a world ozone

conference in his other position as head of the kingdom's meteorological department, held routine talks on the Al Yamamah defence deal with British defence ministry official Alan Thomson.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf said that any changes in the oil payment structure of the Al Yamamah project would be the first real signs of any future difficulties.

Saudi Arabia initially agreed to pay for the deal, which includes projects continuing well into the next century, with 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil.

British Petroleum (B.P.) agreed to lift 300,000 bpd and Shell transport the balance. The proceeds from the sale of the oil were to be paid in BAE.

However, when the deal was signed in 1986 oil prices were around \$28 per barrel but collapsed to lows of \$10 and last year were around \$18. This year, prices have slumped due to overproduction — much of it by the kingdom's neighbours the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait.

King Fahd has already called on OPEC members to work for a firm production agreement to stabilise prices, something it hopes to see emerge from a July 25 OPEC meeting in Geneva.

The oil industry sources said that for last few months the Saudis have been allocating a further 100,000 bpd to cover the deal, which they sell direct onto the world market to compensate for any cash shortfalls for Al Yamamah.

An offset programme, whereby British firms set up manufacturing and service projects in Saudi Arabia to offset some of the huge cost, is an important aspect of Al Yamamah.

Prince Fahd said that this part of the deal was also now going smoothly.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

| Saturday, June 30, 1990 | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--|
| Central Bank official rates | | | |
| | Buy | Sell | |
| U.S. dollar | 666.0 | 670.0 | |
| Pound Sterling | 1161.8 | 1168.8 | |
| Deutsche mark | 400.9 | 403.3 | |
| Swiss franc | 470.7 | 473.5 | |
| French franc | 119.4 | 120.1 | |
| Japanese yen (for 100) | 437.7 | 440.3 | |
| Dutch guilder | 356.3 | 358.4 | |
| Swedish crown | 110.2 | 110.9 | |
| Italian lira (for 100) | 54.7 | 55.0 | |
| Belgian franc (for 10) | 193.7 | 194.9 | |

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Ireland's World Cup dream dies

ROME (AP) — Ireland's dreams of World Cup glory died Saturday night, but coach Jack Charlton said he hoped the team's strong showing throughout the tournament put the Irish on the international soccer map.

"We're very disappointed to be going home," Charlton said after his team's 1-0 loss to Italy in a quarterfinal match. "But we're very proud and I think the Irish people at home will be very proud and that pleases us very much."

Making its first World Cup appearance, Ireland advanced to the quarterfinals by drawing its three first-round games against Egypt, England and the Netherlands. It then defeated Romania in a second-round penalty shoot-out after playing to a fourth draw.

But against Italy Saturday night, Ireland's attack had trouble kicking into gear. It only managed one or two serious threats against Italian goalkeeper Walter Zenga.

In the first 30 minutes of the game, the Irish defence confronted the Italians, repeatedly

intercepting passes to break up scoring rushes. In the 25th minute, Zenga had to make a diving save on a header by striker Niall Quinn.

But after Italian striker Salvatore Schillaci scored in the 38th minute, Ireland had trouble getting back into the match. The loss ended Ireland's 17-game unbeaten streak.

"We've got a great bunch of players who've got a great heart and a lot of technical ability," Charlton said. "I feel they've done as well as they were able to. Maybe they've put the Irish team on the map in the eyes of the world."

The manager, a member of England's 1966 World Cup winner, told reporters he was ready to relax a while.

"We are out of the tournament now and I'd just like to express how much we've enjoyed the whole experience," Charlton said. "Now, I want to go have a couple of pints with the lads, sing a couple of songs and catch a flight home. I'll probably be fishing Monday."

Schillaci: Please don't wake me up

ROME (R) — Italy's Salvatore Schillaci, transformed from second division minnow to World Cup superstar in little more than a year, is living in a dream.

"Please don't wake me up," Schillaci said after his fourth goal in five matches put Italy into the World Cup semifinals.

The 25-year-old Sicilian scored the only goal in Italy's victory over Ireland in Rome's Olympic stadium Saturday night.

The win extended the hosts' record as the only World Cup side not to concede a goal and set up a clash with defending champions Argentina in Naples Tuesday.

Schillaci, holding an ice pack to a black eye sustained in a clash with his marker Mick McCarthy, described the goal as his best of the tournament.

"I scored a very difficult goal because the ball was bouncing when it got to me," said the quicksilver Sicilian.

Schillaci's opportunistic effort came in the 37th minute of a match full of fire and action from both sides.

Irish goalkeeper Pat Bonner could only parry a thunderous shot from midfielder Roberto

Donadoni. Schillaci darted in from the left, looked up long enough to choose his spot and slid the loose ball home into the far corner of the net.

Schillaci, who dismissed his clash with the Irish captain as "normal for this level of competition," was disappointed that a second goal, a minute before the final whistle, was disallowed for offside.

"My teammates tell me that I set out from an inside position," said Schillaci, who joined Juventus from second division club Messina last season and had won only one international cap before the World Cup finals.

The disallowed goal prompted Italian coach Azeglio Vicini to break his golden rule about not discussing the behaviour of the referees.

"Everybody has eyes and I wish they open them," he said.

Roberto Baggio, who will be Schillaci's teammate at Juventus next season, also had a goal disallowed for offside.

Schillaci saw another chance come to nothing when he rifled a shot against the crossbar. The ball ricocheted down on to the goal line and bounced away.

Vicini wants 24 hours to rest his mind

MARIONO, Italy (R) — Italian coach Azeglio Vicini, still digesting his side's run into the World Cup semifinals, does not want to turn his thoughts to Argentina, their next opponents, just yet.

"We will take 24 hours' rest mentally and then from tomorrow we will start to think about Argentina," Vicini said Sunday.

"It seems normal to me that you go further on a bit of tiredness sets in — not just for the Italian squad but for everyone," he noted.

The physical work goes on though. The players who were not called up for the 1-0 win over Ireland Saturday night, plus substitutes Aldo Serena and Carlo Ancelotti, were on playing a training game early Sunday.

To the accompaniment of the screams of dozens of adoring teenage girls, the men responsible for Saturday's quarter-final win contented themselves with some leisurely jogging around the sunlit pitch at Marion's little stadium.

For the first time in this World Cup, the squad were leaving their luxury hotel at Marino, in the cool hills outside Rome, to set up

camp at Castellammare di Stabia, a seaside resort south of Naples.

Monday morning they were due to train at the San Paolo stadium in Naples, scene of Tuesday's semifinal against Argentina.

Vicini usually announces his team the day before each match but, with only two days between games this time, said he might wait until Tuesday.

"I don't want to give the Argentines the least advantage," But the coach, who took charge of the squad after the last World Cup, hinted that he would most likely stick to the side which beat Ireland — although midfielder Nicola Berti is expected to get back his place after a one-match suspension.

"I will change little if anything at all," said Vicini, who has been spending time with Enzo Bearzot, his predecessor who took Italy to World Cup triumph in 1982 and who is a guest at the Italian training camp.

"He is a pillar of calm and serenity for the players," said Vicini who worked under Bearzot on three previous World Cup campaigns.

In the Wings heads for Royal Ascot

PARIS (R) — In the Wings cruised to an easy length and a half victory over Ode in Sunday's Group One Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud horse race.

The colt set himself up for a crack at the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth stakes at Ascot at the end of the month where Irish Derby winner Salsabil could be among the opposition.

English rider Carroll House, last year's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, had to settle for fourth place in a race dominated by the French.

American Cash Asmussen tried new tactics on 3-10 favourite In the Wings, waiting in mid-division in the 2.4-kilometre event.

But the colt showed his familiar turn of foot to take it up at the 200-metre pole and win as he liked.

Robert Acton, representing winning owner Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai, said: "That was a very nice success and In the Wings will now represent the Sheikh in the King George rather than Old Vic."

Old Vic won the French and Irish derbies last year but was a disappointing third on his seasonal debut at Royal Ascot nine days ago.

Acton added: "Old Vic should be still needed time at Ascot and it is probably asking too much of the colt to take this one so soon. If the two do clash, it will be in the Arc de Triomphe in the autumn."

W. Germans squirm past Czechs into semifinals

MILAN (Agencies) — Captain Lothar Matthaeus scored his fourth World Cup goal on a penalty kick to push West Germany past Czechoslovakia 1-0 Sunday and into the semifinal of the World Cup.

The West Germans will meet either Cameroon or England, who played later Sunday, in Wednesday's semifinal in Turin.

Czechoslovakia was eliminated.

Matthaeus' penalty kick in the 24th minute finished off some brilliant work from star striker Juergen Klinsmann.

After pressuring throughout the opening spell, Klinsmann first rode high tackles of Ivan Hasek and Lubos Kubik, then rushed into the penalty area where he was sandwiched by Jozef Chovanec and Frantisek Straka.

Referee Helmut Kohl of Austria called a penalty kick, and Matthaeus blasted it home.

West Germany dominated throughout the match and Czechoslovakia's chances to score were reduced further when forward Lubomir Moravcik was sent off with two yellow cards in the 72nd minute.

The margin could easily have been bigger, but Hasek headed the ball twice off the line and Michal Bilek did it once when goalie Jan Stejskal was already beaten.

"The Czechoslovak team was a very strong one," West German coach Franz Beckenbauer said. "The boys were very tired, but

the fans helped a lot... overall it was very good teamwork."

West Germany played without veteran striker Rudi Voeller, a three-goal scorer who was suspended for receiving a red card in the second round. Karlheinz Riedle played in his place, teaming with Klinsmann.

"The Klinsmann-Riedle combination did not work very well, but the important thing is that we won," Beckenbauer said.

Czechoslovak coach Jozef Venglos acknowledged his team had some difficulties.

"That's soccer," he said. "I saw some problems in midfield, but I thought my team was quite coherent. ... we are unhappy because we looked forward to this match and hoped to do better."

Czechoslovakia's Tomas Skuhravy, the leading World Cup

Nerves take over in penalty shoot-outs

FLORENCE (R) — Diego Maradona blamed it on divine intervention, Dragomir Stokjovic on mind-numbing exhaustion.

But neither was the first big name to miss a spot kick in penalty shoot-outs at the World Cup finals.

When a team's fate hangs in the balance, tension can paralyse coordination and jar nerves of steel.

Maradona's feeble shot and Stokjovic's reckless blast against the top of the bar were among five failed penalties out of 10 as Argentina scrapped through 3-2 in the shoot-out against Yugoslavia Saturday.

If it seemed an astonishingly high failure rate for top-notch professionals at the world's premier event, there was more sympathy than condemnation for the players.

Yugoslav coach Ivica Osim, whose team played with 10 men for almost 90 minutes after the sending off of midfielder Refik Sabanadzovic, said he could not have asked more of his players who were exhausted by the scorching heat of the Tuscan sun.

"It was just too bad about the penalties. But they had been playing for two hours in that heat and you must understand it's easy to make a mistake like that," he said.

The match brought back memories of the classic France-Brazil encounter in Mexico four years ago when stars of the magnitude of Michel Platini and Socrates both missed in the penalty shoot-out, again in extremely hot and exhausting conditions.

To cap it all, Zico had missed a penalty in normal time in an extraordinary game which finished with three of the world's greatest players failing in what is regarded as little more than a formality for men of much lesser prestige.

Maradona's miss at the end of a quarter-final which did not produce a single goal even after extra time was the third shoot-out flop of his career.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ108 ♥5 ♦AQJ98 ♣Q95
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ108 ♥8 ♦AQJ98 ♣Q95
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♥ Dbl Pass 1 NT
Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ108 ♥8 ♦AQJ98 ♣Q95
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♥ Dbl Pass 1 NT
Pass 2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣
Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K ♥Q6 ♦KJ1063 ♣107652
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K ♥Q6 ♦KJ1063 ♣107652
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass Pass
Dbl Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠2 ♥Q65 ♦QJ96 ♣A9742
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Look for answers on Monday.

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At 12:30, 3:30

3) **BEVERLY HILLS**

At 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Dureid Lahham / Madeline Tabar in **KAFROUN**

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

A PRAYER FOR THE DYING

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

Silvester Stallone in **TANGO & CASH**

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Silvester Stallone in **TANGO & CASH**

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 10:30

NATO summit may announce withdrawal of nuclear shells

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO leaders may announce plans to withdraw all U.S. nuclear artillery shells from Western Europe when they meet in London for a summit this week, alliance sources said Sunday.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said the United States had suggested withdrawing the shells, most of which are based in West Germany, on condition that the Soviet Union complete its planned troop pullout from Eastern Europe.

"We're still discussing the proposal at NATO," said one source. "If there's agreement, there will be an announcement at the summit."

Such a move would cut NATO's nuclear arsenal in Western Europe by roughly half and perhaps help overcome Moscow's continued resistance to seeing a united Germany join the 16-nation Western alliance, the sources said.

The sources said the U.S. proposal was part of a package of initiatives handed to the alliance for discussion ahead of the summit, called to discuss NATO's role in the post-cold war era. They gave no further details.

"We won't be giving Moscow something for nothing on this," said another source. "The withdrawal would be linked to the pullout of Soviet forces in Eastern Europe."

The Soviet Union has already begun withdrawing forces from Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

NATO has said Moscow can

have several years to withdraw the 360,000 troops now stationed in East Germany after German unification is completed.

NATO agreed in May not to modernise the nuclear artillery shells in view of the revolutionary changes in Eastern Europe and the military collapse of the Warsaw Pact.

The number of the 155mm and 203mm shells in Europe is classified, but is thought to be around 1,500. With a range of between 15 and 30 kilometres, they were intended to wipe out Soviet tanks and troops in any mass attack on the West.

Several NATO countries have called for the unilateral withdrawal of the shells, including West Germany which faces a strong anti-nuclear lobby as it heads towards unification.

Bonn expects all-German elections in December and a withdrawal of the shells could help Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition.

The NATO summit, Thursday and Friday, will discuss how the alliance should adapt its military strategy and needs to changed times. That includes sensitive questions about the future role of nuclear weapons.

There has been speculation that Washington would want to

include the shells in negotiations with Moscow on short-range nuclear forces (SNF) in Europe, due to start later this year or in early 1991.

But NATO sources said reductions in the shells would be extremely difficult to verify, as they resembled conventional artillery charges and could easily be hidden or disguised.

NATO has also agreed not to modernise its other battlefield nuclear weapon, the ageing Lance missile, but says that some form of nuclear deterrent must remain in Western Europe as long as the Soviet Union has such weapons.

The short-range Lance missiles, which are expected to be included in arms talks with Moscow, and aircraft bombs make up the rest of the alliance's nuclear arsenal in Europe.

NATO leaders will try at next week's summit to reassure the Soviet Union that it has nothing to fear from the Western alliance, a senior official said Friday.

"You will get a very clear message about the peaceful intentions of our member nations... and also about the non-aggressive character of our alliance," said NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner.

He spoke to reporters after meeting with Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jozsef, whose country has said it intends to pull out of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact. Jozsef said there was no move in Hungary for the

nation to join NATO.

U.S. President George Bush recently suggested a mutual declaration of non-aggression between NATO and the Warsaw Pact — "stopping short of a formal treaty."

At their summit, Bush and other leaders of the 16 NATO nations were expected to try to make the alliance appear less threatening to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

In doing so, the West hopes Gorbachev will drop his objections to NATO membership for a united Germany.

In an interview with European reporters, Bush was quoted as saying that it was his responsibility "to try to convince Mr. Gorbachev that what is proposed is not threatening. We've got a selling job to do."

Woerner said no decision has yet been made on "the concrete form of such a (non-aggression) declaration."

But he said he would prefer "a statement which clearly is based on member nations." This was an apparent reference to a desire to steer clear of a bloc-to-bloc arrangement. Some worry such an accord would give support to the Warsaw Pact, which is in virtual collapse.

The declaration would be part of a series of reassuring measures the West has offered to make to the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev has opposed full and immediate membership for the new German state in NATO.

Baltic presidents urge joint talks with Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — The leaders of the three Soviet Baltic republics have called for joint negotiations with Moscow on their independence demands, an official in the Estonian capital Tallinn said Sunday.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, Estonian President Arnold Ruitel and Latvian President Anatolijs Gorbunovs called for the talks in a declaration Saturday evening, the official, Endel Lippmaa, said.

The statement meant the Baltic republics agreed that the Estonians and Latvians should be included in any negotiations between Moscow and Lithuania, Lippmaa said.

The Lithuanian parliament Friday opened the way for talks by meeting a Kremlin demand that it suspend its declaration of independence for the duration of discussions.

The Baltic presidents' declaration was worked out in a weekend meeting between Landsbergis and Ruitel in Tallinn, said Lippmaa, Minister Without Portfolio in the Estonian government.

Gorbunovs was not present but was represented by other Latvian officials. He agreed to the declaration by telephone, Lippmaa said.

The declaration called for "three plus one" talks between the three Baltic republics and Moscow.

Filipino rebels kidnap Peace Corps volunteer

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The United States embassy said Sunday that Communist rebels had kidnapped a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer and were holding him on the central island of Negros.

A retired Roman Catholic bishop said the American volunteer had been "very friendly" with the New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas before his reported abduction more than two weeks ago.

Last week, the United States recalled the 261 Peace Corps volunteers in the Philippines after intelligence reports indicated that Communist rebels might try to kill or kidnap the volunteers.

U.S. authorities had said previously that all the volunteers were accounted for. The volunteers began leaving the Philippines Friday.

A Peace Corps spokeswoman in Washington who asked not to be named said she had no information about the kidnapping. Embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger it was believed 26-year-old Timothy Swanson of Wyoming, who had been in the Philippines since February, was abducted on June 13. He said the embassy had made unsuccessful attempts to contact Swanson when the withdrawal of the Peace Corps volunteers was announced.

Rev. Antonio Fortich, the retired Roman Catholic bishop of Negros, said in a telephone interview that Swanson's Filipino wife told him rebels had taken the volunteer from his home in the village of Patag. She said she was told to say nothing about the matter, he said.

Last week, he said, Swanson's wife received a letter from her husband saying he was all right and asking her to send some books and personal items.

President Corazon Aquino's press secretary Tomas Gomez, said he had no information on the abduction but said it might have been avoided if the United States had consulted Philippine authorities on security.

Schragger said the embassy had dispatched diplomats to the Negros city of Bacolod. Negros, about 500 kilometres southeast of Manila, is a stronghold of the rebel New Peoples Army, which has waged a 21-year insurgency and seeks to establish a Marxist state.

On May 29, rebels on Negros kidnapped a Japanese aid worker, Fumio Mizuno, and are believed holding him in remote mountains near Bacolod.

Schragger said the embassy was convinced that the kidnappers were Communist rebels, but refused to say what contacts, if any, had been made with the kidnappers.

The U.S. decision to withdraw the Peace Corps volunteers had drawn criticism from Philippine officials, who said the United States was overreacting to the alleged threats.

On Saturday, Gomez said the decision to pull out the volunteers could be an obstacle in forthcoming talks on the future of U.S. bases in the country. The bases' lease expires in September.

Gomez said Sunday that U.S. authorities had not shared information about the reported rebel threat.

"They refused to listen to a security briefing," the presidential spokesman said. "Maybe if they did that, we could have prevented it."

Mrs. Aquino suggested before the kidnapping was disclosed that U.S. officials should have consulted with Philippine officials about the withdrawal of the volunteers.

Sri Lankan troops break through cordon of rebel bunkers, kill 25

Sri Lankan troops broke through a cordon of rebel bunkers and overran a village on the north-eastern tip of the island Sunday.

One soldier was killed and 25 were wounded in Saturday's operation, the officials said.

The officials described the loss of the hideout in Marichchukkadai village, 185 kilometres north of Colombo, as a major blow to the rebels.

The hideout was hidden in dense forest and was close to the Indian Ocean, they said, making it an ideal point for transporting men and weapons to the north. The militants have had an upper hand in that region since fighting in the civil war renewed on June 11.

Also Saturday, police raided the homes of 10 Tamil parliament members in Colombo and disarmed them and their bodyguards, a military official said Sunday.

The official said the raid was conducted in the downtown Kollupitiya neighbourhood homes of the politicians of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), a pro-Tamil rebel party.

Thirty-five guns and 20,000 rounds of ammunition were confiscated in the raid that was part of the government's efforts to disarm politicians, said the offi-

cial, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

The government has already confiscated about 8,000 guns and ammunition from other politicians, issued to their bodyguards last year at the height of a Sinhalese insurgency.

EROS, which has 13 representatives in the 225-member parliament, is closely aligned with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who are fighting government forces for the control of the north and east.

The militia wants to establish a separate homeland for the minority Tamil, claiming they are discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese in jobs and education.

Sinhalese comprise 75 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people and control the government and the military. Tamils make up 18 per cent of the population.

Fighting between the Tamil Tigers and government forces erupted last month after a Tamil man complained to the rebels that he was manhandled by Sinhalese police in the eastern port town of Batticaloa.

At least 1,820 combatants have died in the hostilities that ended a 13-month tenuous ceasefire and peace talks between the Tamil Tigers and the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

On Saturday, EROS General

Secretary Velupillai Prabhakaran appealed to Premadasa to stop the government offensive in the north and east where most of Sri Lanka's Tamils live.

In a letter to the president, copies of which were given to reporters, Prabhakaran said "heaping untold misery on the Tamil people would only make them support the LTTE more and more."

The letter called on Premadasa to restart peace talks and end its aerial offensive on northern Jaffna peninsula, the rebel stronghold where the guerrillas have besieged a strategic fort since June 11.

In an effort to break the siege, government planes have bombed and strafed surrounding residential areas, killing an unknown number of civilians. The government blames the deaths on pilot error.

"Time is running out. Please show your gesture to the suffering Tamil-speaking people," the letter said.

Since the fighting started, Premadasa has often said he is ready to restart peace talks if the Tigers surrender their arms. The government blames the Tigers for starting the civil war.

In Batticaloa, where much of the fighting has taken place, troops are using the help of Tiger rivals to help identify rebels who had mingled with the townspeople, residents said.

Draft dodger hijacks Soviet plane

STOCKHOLM (R) — A 19-year-old draft dodger armed with a fake grenade hijacked a Soviet plane to Sweden late Saturday in the sixth act of air piracy against the Soviet carrier Aeroflot in three weeks.

The hijacker surrendered shortly after midnight, and the plane, carrying 152 passengers and seven crew, returned to the Soviet Union, officials at Stockholm's Arlanda airport said.

"The main reason for the hijacking was that he did not want to do military service," police inspector Lennart Pettersson said. The hijacker's sole demand was to be allowed to stay in Sweden.

The hijacker, a student in Leningrad, seized control of the Tupolev 154 aircraft on an internal flight between Lvov and Leningrad by telling crew members he had a hand grenade.

Police said the device turned out to be a dummy.

Pettersson said it was possible the hijacker had three accomplices, as first reported by police, but they had been unwilling to carry out their mission.

Because neither the hijacker nor crew spoke English, Arlanda control asked the Swedish Air Force to help. Two Viggen military aircraft intercepted the Tupolev over the Baltic Sea and escorted it to Arlanda.

The incident was the sixth hijacking of an Aeroflot plane since June 9, when 17-year-old Dmitri Semenyonov forced a flight to divert to Arlanda.

Semenyov is still being held pending a decision by Swedish authorities on the Soviet request for his extradition on charges of air piracy.

U.S. reportedly to ease asylum rules

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. Justice Department has drafted new rules that would make it easier for foreigners to get asylum in the United States, the New York Times reported Sunday.

Under the rules, drafted after decades of debate, the U.S. government would maintain a humanitarian centre with information on human rights conditions in foreign countries, the Times said.

U.S. administration officials were not immediately available to comment on the Times report.

The Times, quoting from what

it said was a confidential draft of the new rules, said specially trained asylum officers would use this information to decide whether the applicants might face persecution at home.

Applicants would not need to prove the probability of individual persecution if a homeland showed a pattern of persecuting their group, it said.

Several studies have shown that decisions on whether or not to grant asylum have in the past reflected such political biases as U.S. foreign policy or the pri-

ties of the immigration service, problems which the new rules would reduce or eliminate, the New York Times said.

In 1989, 9,229 people were approved for asylum, 31,547 were denied and 77,000 others were waiting to hear.

Under the new rules, an applicant who was turned down could renew the application at a deportation hearing before an immigration judge, would be allowed to have a lawyer and could legally take a job while awaiting a decision.

Mandela ends U.S. visit with rally; plans return in October

OAKLAND, California (R) — Nelson Mandela has ended his triumphant visit to the United States, saying that he had been "inspired beyond imagination" by the American people and announcing he would come again in October.

Departing from his prepared speech, the South African anti-apartheid leader discussed that American Indians had appealed to him for support and he would visit them during his next trip, which is expected to include trips to Philadelphia and Chicago.

The 71-year-old deputy president of the African National Congress (ANC) wound up his 13-day North American visit, during which he visited eight U.S. cities, with a rousing rally at Oakland Coliseum Saturday.

"We cannot turn back, we shall not turn back, you have inspired us beyond imagination," he told a cheering crowd of 70,000. Despite his grueling schedule he felt "like an old battery that has been recharged."

"And if I feel so young...it is the people of the United States of America who are responsible for

this," he said.

Mandela was to leave Saturday for Ireland and England to continue his world tour campaigning against apartheid.

The South African leader flew to Oakland earlier Saturday from Los Angeles where he spoke to 78,000 supporters at a stadium and attended a star-studded fundraising dinner that raised more than \$1 million for the ANC.

"We came here as fighters attempting to eliminate apartheid and to have the basic principle of one person, one vote introduced in our country," Mandela said on arriving in Oakland.

"We go away even more determined to fight... for the total elimination of apartheid, not tomorrow but today."

Oakland, a city with a 50 per cent black population, is also the constituency of congressmen Ron Dellums, a key anti-apartheid legislator who campaigned for 15 years before Congress adopted sanctions against South Africa in 1986.

In each city Mandela visited, he has managed to identify with a variety of social problems and

ethnic groups, from the homeless in New York to white auto workers in Detroit to the "beautiful people" of Hollywood.

"The purpose of the trip was to get his message about the current state of politics in South Africa and the nature of his African National Congress struggle to the American people," said Roger Wilkins, chief American organizer of the trip.

"I think he has succeeded brilliantly because he is an extraordinary human being and an able politician."

Swelakhe Sisulu, Mandela's press secretary, nevertheless said he thought Mandela had taken the enthusiasm to his trip "in his stride."

"He has said it has been a humbling experience for him," Sisulu said.

Close aides said Mandela was in excellent health, but his programme in the United States had been overscheduled and often cut into the time he needed to rest.

"He has received the kind of adulation that could tax anybody's health," a close ANC aide told Reuters.

Walesa wins battle for Solidarity power base

VARSAW (R) — Solidarity's Citizens' Committee voted down a proposal to turn themselves into a pro-government party Saturday after Lech Walesa warned that it could eventually lead Poland back to dictatorship.

Walesa scored a triumph in his battle with supporters of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki when only 10 of the 160 committee delegates from Poland's provinces voted for the Solidarity-led government's proposal.

The committees have emerged as Poland's most powerful electoral machine, twice sweeping Solidarity to victory in the past year, and Walesa said the government's plan would make them the basis for a new power monopoly.

He urged the delegates to think carefully before agreeing to form a centralised federation supporting the government and speaker after speaker joined him in opposing the proposal.

"I prefer Solidarity to unity," said Andrzej Kropiwnicki, another delegate, Andrzej Koszyk, accused Mazowiecki's supporters of trying to create a government "superparty."

"There is a danger that the role of Solidarity will be forced to one government suit," Koszyk declared.

Delegates voted instead for a Walesa proposal to meet again in three weeks to discuss the possibility of holding monthly conferences without any formal political structures.

Despite his triumph, Walesa

appeared intent on averting a final split with Mazowiecki's supporters.

He had urged the committees to take no final decisions Saturday or at a final meeting called by the government camp for Sunday. But the vote showed the committees backed him on the matter and they were thought unlikely to reverse their decision.

Defiantly playing on memories of the 45-year rule of the recently dissolved Communist Party, Walesa said Solidarity's revolution was in danger of losing its way, like all other revolutions, now that it occupied the seats of power.

He said the role of the committees in strengthening Poland's fledgling democracy lay in developing political pluralism, not in the unity proposed by the government.

"When I hear people teaching me now that, more than pluralism, we need to build in unity, I can understand them but I am afraid of them," Walesa told hundreds of delegates packed into the parliament senate chamber.

"We need to create pluralistic structures today so that people who come later cannot become dictators."

Walesa denied stirring up conflict with the government because of its reluctance to accept him as president of Poland.

2 Colombians extradited to U.S.

BOGOTA (R) — Two Colombians wanted in the United States on drug trafficking charges were handed over to U.S. authorities Saturday and flown to Florida, the Colombian News Agency, Colposena, reported.

There was no immediate confirmation from Colombia's national police or the U.S. embassy of the report.

The news agency said Luis Carbacas Acosta and Rafael Juliao Fernandez were taken from the national penitentiary south of Bogota Saturday under heavy security and handed over to U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents at Bogota's El Dorado International Airport.

They were flown to a U.S. military base in Panama and then to Florida, it said.

Carbacas Acosta was to be transferred to an undisclosed location in North Carolina where he is wanted for cocaine trafficking and money laundering.

Fernandez was to be put under the jurisdiction of a Florida court where he is wanted in connection with a drug trafficking case, the report said.

Their extradition would bring to 17 the number of Colombians the government has handed over to U.S. jurisdiction. Another 13 are awaiting extradition.

A central aim of Colombia's drug lords is to overturn the government's policy of extraditing alleged traffickers to the United States.

China begins world's biggest population count

PEKING (R) — China, the world's most populous country, began Sunday to count its estimated 1.1 billion people in the first nationwide census in eight years.

Seven million census takers began fanning out across the country, knocking on doors and recording names and other personal data from each of China's 200 million households.

It is no simple task in a nation where 50,000 babies are born and 16,000 people die every day.

Premier Li Peng has called the exercise, the fourth since the Communists took power in 1949, a "sweeping mobilisation of society."

More than 100,000 people have been enlisted to drum up public support in Peking alone, handing out leaflets on street corners and reminding people the census is at hand.

Television and newspapers have joined the campaign, and loudspeakers on public streets blare radio reports on the importance of the tally.

"Ensuring a successful census is everyone's responsibility," proclaims a banner seen adorning government offices, shop windows and buses around the city.

"Our large population is our biggest problem," said Geng Qiwen, an official supervising the census in a Western district of Peking.

"If we can obtain accurate statistics this will help administration and in turn economic development."

China's huge population means a massive headache for planning necessities like food, clothing and employment for all its people.

One of China's biggest problems since the last census is the "floating population" — the

armies of farmers who have drifted into the cities from the countryside in search of work.

Economic reforms over the last decade loosened tight social controls and allowed more mobility, unleashing a wave of migration.

Without official permission, farmers have deserted low-paying jobs in the countryside in favour of work in hotels, on construction sites or even as domestics in the cities.

"There will be some mistakes. We will miss some of these people but I think we will be basically correct with our count," said Geng.

Officials said they have tools to obtain data on these people — the street committees, usually retired people who are paid to watch happens on their street.

Since hardline Marxists seized control of the Communist Party and crushed a democracy cam-



Brando's daughter gives birth to baby boy

PAPEETE, Tahiti (R) —

Cheyenne Brando, the daughter of U.S. film star Marlon Brando, has given birth to a baby boy, hospital sources said Saturday. Both Cheyenne and the baby were doing well, the sources added. A prosecution lawyer said in Los Angeles Monday that Cheyenne fled to the Pacific Island of Tahiti to avoid testifying in a murder trial. Lawyer Steven Barshap said she is refusing to give evidence against her half-brother, Christian, who is charged with murdering her Tahitian boyfriend Dag Drollet, who is the father of her child. Drollet was killed in Los Angeles in May. Cheyenne is the daughter of Brando and his second wife, Tahitian actress Tarita Teriipaia.

French to launch first Soviet 'instant lottery'

PARIS (AP) — French lottery experts have announced plans to launch the Soviet Union's first "instant lottery," hoping the lure of big prizes will sell hundreds of millions of tickets for the benefit of a charity group. The lottery is scheduled to begin by the end of July, with an initial distribution of 200 million tickets, said Georges Robert Parisot, president of the international section of the company which runs the French National Lottery. He said the tickets are to be sold in the Soviet Union by the Soviet Children's Fund, established several years ago to look after the interests of children. "It is officially independent, but has close ties to the government," Parisot said in an interview that the biggest prizes in the instant lottery would be 25,000 rubles — equivalent to \$42,000 at the standard exchange rate or \$4,000 at the tourist exchange rate. He said the tickets will sell for five rubles apiece — \$8.30 at the standard rate, or 83 cents at the tourist rate. Although the first order is for 200 million tickets, Parisot said he expected billions would be sold. He said 57 per cent of the ticket sale proceeds would be paid back in prizes, with the rest covering administrative costs and going to the children's fund.

Madonna wants Baggio shirt, but thinks Zenga is sexy

ROME (R) — Rock star Madonna wants Italian striker Roberto Baggio's shirt but thinks goalkeeper Walter Zenga is the sexiest member of the team. She plans to watch the World Cup final in Rome on July 8 — two days before she gives a concert in the capital. Madonna, whose family came from the Abruzzi Mountains northeast of Rome, told the top circulation sports newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport, she was sure Italy would be in the final. The paper quoted her as saying she would invite the squad to dinner and to her concert. In return she wanted Baggio's shirt. "That goal (by Baggio) against Czechoslovakia was marvelous. I did not know his name then but that goal and his big green eyes conquered me," she said in an interview with the paper. "We will all have a party... Italians do it better — in every sense. I've always said that." She said Zenga, known as a lady's man, was the team's sexiest player.

Taiwan cracks electronic exam cheating scheme

TAIPEI (R) — In Taiwan's pressure-cooker of academic competition, electronic pagers and special transmitters have replaced scribbled notes as the way to cheat on university entrance examinations. Taiwan's Bureau of Investigation has arrested two men accused of setting up an electronic network to relay answers to testing rooms in this year's joint university entrance examination, a statement said. The statement said 160 students had paid 50,000 Taiwan dollars (about \$1,800) each to register for the electronic cheating service. Students who passed the examination and made it into a national university would have to pay the syndicate an additional 150,000 Taiwan dollars (\$5,500). The national examination begins Sunday and lasts until July 3. Some 120,000 students registered for the test are competing for 43,816 places in Taiwan's 41 universities.